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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Reshuffle planned for April ahead of separation of powers

By Ahmed Shaker

Special to The Star

A CABINET reshuffle of the Kabarti government is not in the offing now but could take place in April or May of next year, according to Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Abdulhussain Ensour.

Pointing to next year's parliamentary elections, Dr. Ensour, himself a deputy, told The Star that the reshuffle will allow deputy ministers in the government to step down in preparation for the elections. Under the law, any candidate holding a government post must resign at least one month prior to the registration date for the elections.

But this would not be the main reason for the planned reshuffle. The last two Lower Houses sessions testify to that. When His Majesty King Hussein decided to call for the November 1993 elections for the current Parliament, he made a cabinet reshuffle in May of that year. This was "to prevent any candidate from making use of his ministerial post in the campaign," Ensour said.

"I think the same policy will be adopted this time, and I don't expect a reshuffle to take place later than April or May next year," he added.

Observers point out that when the King called for a review of the relationship between the constitutional au-

thorities in last week's Speech from the Throne in Parliament, he aimed to enhance the relationship between the executive and legislative authorities.

The separation of powers will help to avoid negative practices that may harm national goals, despite the fact that in certain stages the combination of powers was a necessity," Ensour said.

Observers believe that the King's remarks were a signal for the government to work on the issue of preventing deputies from becoming ministers. However, they argue that members from the Upper House can be ministers.

The King can assign that job to a deputy who in turn forms a cabinet that is representative of Jordanian society and comprises academics and technocrats.

Mr. Ensour confirmed that the planned cabinet reshuffle will cover only 15 posts, hinting that not all of the 22 deputy ministers will be running for re-election in the November 1997 elections.

Observers believe Mr. Kabarti will lead the interim government which will supervise the next parliamentary elections, directly after a cabinet reshuffle. It is expected

that Mr. Kabarti will remain in his post after the elections.

Politicians argue that the participation of deputies in the executive branch had a negative impact on the performance of the government.

On the other hand, the Lower House, which comprises 80 deputies, has suffered from the absence of influential parliamentary blocs with the exception of the 15-member Islamic bloc led by the Islamic Action Front Party.

When former Prime Minister Dr. Abdel Salam Al Majali formed a deputies-free cabinet two years ago, he got 41 votes of confidence. In contrast, Kabarti's government received 57 votes in its favor.

But observers argue that the participation of deputies in the government does not always secure a majority of votes needed to win a confidence motion.

Former politicians and ministers stressed that deputies should not be ministers. IAF

general secretary, Dr. Ishaq Al Farhan, said "the post of the deputy must not be a path to a ministerial post."

Senator Abdul Aziz Al Khayat said the deputy minister post is a disadvantage for those who elected the deputy in most cases. He added that a deputy must resign from the Lower House when he accepts a ministerial post.

Mr. Ahmed Al Akaleh, senator and a former minister, said that the task of the deputy

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Lower House undecided about Ammarin's resignation

By Hamdan Al Hajj

Special to The Star

THE LOWER HOUSE Wednesday approved the final draft of its reply to the Speech from the Throne delivered by His Majesty King Hussein last week at the opening of the fourth ordinary session of the Lower House. Yesterday's session was chaired by House speaker Saad Hayel Sraor.

A special committee was formed by the House to finalize the reply before it is submitted to the King. It will be submitted by Mr. Sraor to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at the Royal court this Saturday.

Because of lack of time, the resignation of deputy Nazeem Ammarin was not discussed though there were intensive medi-

ation efforts before and after the session was convened.

However, deputies proposed various solutions to the impending crisis if the resignation is approved. Although these solutions varied, and there are those who accept the resignation, Ammarin was adamant: "I will not withdraw my resignation," he told the House.

A close deputy to Ammarin hinted indirectly that Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti should make a public apology.

Deputy Samir Habashneh earlier threatened that if Ammarin's resignation is approved without discussing the reasons he would suspend his membership from the House and go back to his con-

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Netanyahu's visit to Jewish settlements delivers stunning blow to peace efforts

By Barton Gellman

LA Times-Washington Post

News Service

ELI SETTLEMENT, Occupied West Bank—Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu flew deep into the interior of the West Bank on Tuesday with a defiant declaration of intent to expand Jewish settlement here. In talks with settlers, he rejected "the logic of an apartheid peace" in which Israel would have to curb its policy of further populating the occupied territories with Jewish families.

In what residents called the first visit by an Israeli prime minister to Eli, an isolated Jewish pocket in the northern West Bank's densest Palestinian corridor, Netanyahu took note of growing Arab and international pressure to curb Israeli expansion in the land captured from Jordan in 1967. It is on that land that Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority seeks to exercise the limited self-rule powers granted under his peace accord with Israel—and eventually to set up a Palestinian state.

Critics of the Jewish settlements, particularly the Palestinians, have charged that the settlements make more difficult, if not impossible, a long-term peace settlement by closing off space to Palestinian rule. But Netanyahu, in his reply Tuesday to those critics, sought to portray Israel as defending itself against forces unsympathetic to a Jewish state in any form, even within Israel's 1967 borders.

"By the very definition on the part of the Jewish people to return to its land, and the decision was also made to redouble the effort to build a Jewish state," he said. "I am not a Jew-hater. I am a Jew-lover. I am a Jew-pride."

Netanyahu did not announce any concrete steps to make good on his promise to "redouble the effort" to build a Jewish state. He did, however, announce that he would continue to support the Jewish settlements and that he would continue to support the Jewish people's right to live in their land.



"Netanyahu's visit to Jewish settlements delivers stunning blow to peace efforts," said a Palestinian official. "It shows that the Israeli government is not serious about peace."

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After it accepted UN terms Iraq hopes to start selling its oil next month

By John Daniszewski

LA Times-Washington Post

News Service

BAGHDAD—With a crisis of malnutrition and disease looming this winter, Iraq Monday agreed to meet UN conditions for implementing a deal to sell limited amounts of its oil to fund its severe humanitarian needs.

But top Iraqi officials accused the United States of putting up obstacles to the "oil-for-food" deal, and they asserted that the \$2 billion in revenues permitted during the next six months would satisfy only a small fraction of the country's requirements.

In a concession, President Saddam Hussein's government agreed to grant independent UN monitors freedom of movement inside the country to oversee the planned distribution of food and medical supplies.

Baghdad's action ended a six-month impasse with the UN Security Council, especially the United States, Iraq agreed in principle to the oil-for-food plan in May but wanted to have control over the UN inspectors in the country.

The Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdon, said he hopes oil sales can begin as early as next month. But the Security



The end of suffering is near, or it is thought!

Council still must approve the pricing mechanism under which the Iraqi oil will be sold, a UN official said. It could take place late

Wednesday. Salwana Fou, Boutros-Ghali's spokeswoman, confirmed later that Hamdon could take place late

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Plan for Israeli fair provokes angry response from businessmen

By Raed Al Abed

Star Staff Writer

THE JORDANIAN business community has reacted angrily to plans to hold an Israeli products fair in Amman next month. Most critics find the idea distasteful at a time when Israel is being accused of reneging on its commitments under the peace

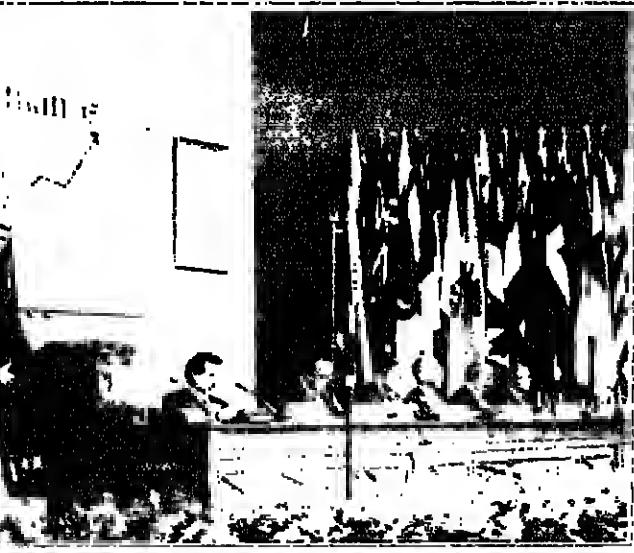
treaty. The proposed fair is being organized by Jordanian businessman, Fakhri Al Nasser, manager of the International and National Expo Corp. In spite of mounting public protest, Al Nasser is pushing hard to convene the four-day show, which is scheduled to open on 15 December.

Mr. Al Nasser told The Star that more than 12,000 invitations were sent to Jordanian and Arab businessmen. He also confirmed that about 250 Israeli businessmen are expected to attend the fair, and that over 70 Israeli companies have already booked 2000 square meters of display space at the Jordan Export Promotion Fair grounds.

"The current situation does not accommodate such a crazy idea," Haidar Murad, president of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, told The Star. "I am sure it is an unsuccessful project because it is unwelcome."

For its part the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) asked the Ministry of Trade and Industry to reverse its approval to hold the exhibition.

"What is the logic behind holding such an exhibition?" asked Hamdi Al Tab'a, president of the JBA. "Israel continues to impose obstacles on the agreed free movement of Jordanian goods to its markets and to the markets of the Palestinian National Authority."



Amman MENA summit. This time Israeli businessmen are not welcomed

It is clear that the timing for the planned fair could not have been worse. Jordanian-Israeli relations have been strained for some time while Israel has come under fire for freezing implementation of clauses of its trade agreements with Jordan

and the PNA. In recent days relations deteriorated further as Israeli officials announced that Israel's agreement with Jordan over water needed to be revised. The stalemate talks between the Palestinians and Israel over the future of Hebron cast its shadows on bilateral relations as well.

Vice president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, Wasif Azzar also expressed his objection to the planned fair and described it as a "mistake." He advised Al Nasser "not to calculate how much money he is going to make, but to respect public opinion in Jordan."

Al Nasser said "this fair will help us to create a 'business lobby' inside Israel which will help to pressure the Israeli government to implement the peace

agreements." He also believes that such an exhibition, which is supported by Israeli government agencies, will help remove trade obstacles and open channels of coop-

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Gas pipeline brings controversy to Myanmar community

By Evelyn Iritani

LA Times-Washington Post

News Service

DAMINSEIK, Myanmar—It is Saturday morning and a crowd of children are giggling over the televised antics of Tom and Jerry, courtesy of the foreign energy companies that have promised this impoverished fishing village a fast track to the 21st century.

But France's Total and El Segundo, Calif.-based Unocal have not only brought Hollywood cartoons, a new schoolhouse, a medical clinic and a shrimp farm to this isolated outpost, a weathered collection of wooden buildings on stilts on the western coastline of Myanmar.

They have also attracted the international scorn of critics opposed to a \$1 billion energy project that could bring political legitimacy and, eventually, badly needed foreign currency to Myanmar's

brutal military regime. Damineseik is one of 13 remote villages located near the path of a partially completed Total-Unocal natural gas pipeline—which is cutting a swath of controversy across 416 miles of ocean, sparsely populated jungle and rugged mountains from the Andaman Sea to the center of Thailand.

The Yadana project is the focus of an escalating battle over whether economic engagement or isolation is the best way to tame the aging generals who wrested control of this southeast Asian country, previously known as Burma, in a bloody coup in 1988.

The outcome is important not just for Myanmar and the energy companies but as a possible model for other companies seeking to develop new markets in regions where unstable, and often authoritarian, governments are the rule rather than the exception.

Total, the French energy giant that is the

project's lead operator, and Unocal are partners with Thailand's state-owned PTT Exploration and Production Public Co. and Myanmar's state-owned Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise.

The members of the pipeline consortium argue, as natural-resource companies always have, that they must steer clear of politics to survive, since their success lies in following the wealth, regardless of who controls the land above it.

"What you're asking us to determine is the legitimacy of a government," said David Garcia, a Unocal spokesman. "That is not our job. That is the job of professional diplomats."

Unocal is particularly anxious to stay in the good graces of Asia's ruling elite since it recently announced plans to sell its West Coast oil reserves, refineries and 70-hand service stations and bet its future on the other side of the Pacific.

Texaco Inc. also recently announced plans to participate in an international consortium developing a gas field off the coast of Myanmar.

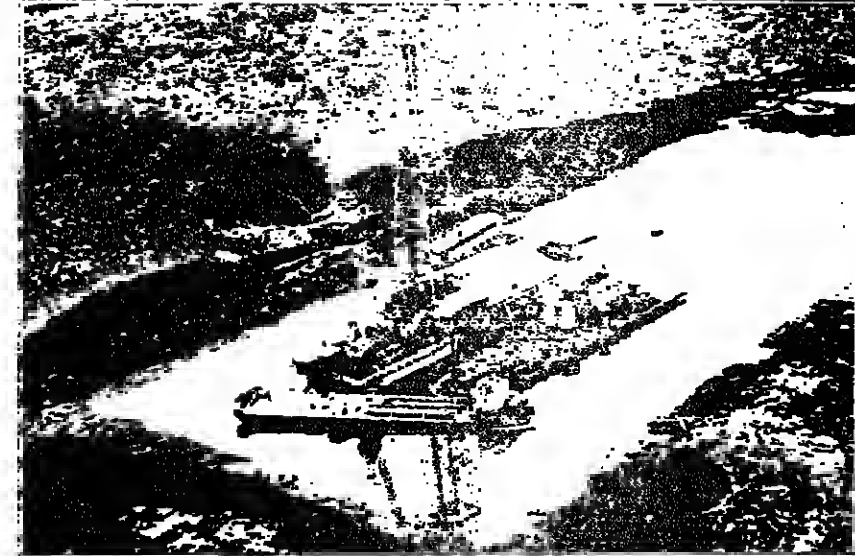
But a host of factors—a global shift

from military to economic diplomacy, changing public attitudes about corporate ethics at home and abroad, increased environmentalism, and communications links that have spotlighted remote regions of the world have combined to raise the ethics bar for US companies operating overseas.

The Clinton administration is under pressure to take tougher action against Myanmar's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council, or SLORC, following this month's attack by rock-throwing hoodlums on a car carrying Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Recently, the State Department issued a warning to Myanmar's rulers, who were accused of orchestrating the attack, that they face severe repercussions if the popular opposition leader is harmed.

Earlier this year, Congress passed a law directing the president to impose stiff penalties, including a ban on new US investment in Myanmar, if the human rights situation worsens. It is not clear whether Unocal would be affected, since opinions differ as to whether "new



Economic progress inevitably effects nature, but does it need to?

investment" includes additional money for ongoing projects or simply new projects. Unocal and its foreign partners are attempting to make their case in the public debate. This month they took the unusual step of inviting a small group of foreign journalists to visit the heavily guarded Yadana project and "see for themselves" that accusations of forced relocation of villagers, environmental degradation and conscripted labor are untrue.

In the companies' view, the choice is pressure to take tougher action against Myanmar's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council, or SLORC, following this month's attack by rock-throwing hoodlums on a car carrying Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

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The effect of TV on children More programs are needed for Jordanian youth

By Manal Omar
Special to The Star

"THE TURTLE sits in the corner, watching as the rabbit circles around him with incredible speed," describes the 12-year-old boy sitting back with an obviously bored expression on his face. His voice booms across the living room in a sports-announcer-like tone as he predicts the cartoon before it actually unfolds. "To the weak turtles horror, the rabbit swings a left hook causing the turtle to fly high into the sky," the boy concludes triumphantly, and smiles widely when his prediction is fulfilled.

It is clear that once a child has seen one cartoon, he has seen them all. Indeed, children are discovering this harsh reality as they complain about the lack of entertainment on Jordan Television. Jordanian youth are finding themselves torn between two extremes—either watch boring cartoons for children or turn to the adult programs. More and more, children are opting for the latter. Inevitably, the Jordanian youths' decision is beginning to reflect on society as a whole.

At a time when increased technology is importing a new culture to Jordan, the role of the community in tackling the effect of television is vital. The government's responsibility and the social broadcasters in addressing the youth has become a crucial element in preserving society.

Ministry of Education statistics, as reported by a UNICEF study, show that there are 1,059,000 students in schools around the Kingdom who are in the primary, preparatory, and secondary cycles. In addition, there is about half that number at the pre-school age. The study concludes that 45 percent of the television audiences in Jordan are children. As a result, close to half are left un-targeted.

"Children spend at least three to four

hours watching television, and the majority of these programs are unsuitable for their age," explains Dr Zaid Al Rafai. He has conducted many in-depth studies on the effects of media on youth in Jordan. His results show that less than 10 percent of television coverage is suitable for youth. In addition, the direct effects of television on the children's behavior and development is outstanding.

A key element that is hindering children's social development is the emphasis on violence in television programs. From the rabbit punching the turtle in the morning to Miami Vice in the evening, violence dominates the screen in which children are glued to for hours a day.

According to Dr Rafai, studies prove that the violence in children programs effect the child in three distinct ways: first, children become more aggressive in their daily relationships with others; second, children become desensitized to violence and other people's sufferings; and finally, children become afraid to interact with the community.

"The programs that are currently presented don't meet the needs of the children. The most important thing is that the youth learn about their rights and responsibilities," states Bassem Batayneh, a representative from UNICEF in Jordan.

The many studies conducted in this country about the effects of television on children have all concluded that the impact on the community is negative. However, the potential for television to yield a positive effect is profound. Television programs can contribute substantially to children's education and social development if handled appropriately.

Carol Bellamy, the executive director of UNICEF, explains, "While studies have shown the negative effects of television violence on children's attitudes and behav-

iors, studies have also shown that television can influence children positively. It means that not only can we begin to undo the damage of inappropriate programming, but we can also use television for good."

On 15 December 1996, more than 2,200 broadcasters around the world will participate in the Fifth International Children's Day of Broadcasting. Jordan is among the 170 countries that are planning to participate. The goal is to use the television as a positive means to reach out to children.

The Jordanian community has a responsibility to ensure that their children are watching healthy and productive programs. At the same time, JTV has an obligation to address the 45 percent of their audience's true needs.

Aroub Sobuh, a broadcaster and producer with JTV acknowledges that obligation. Over the past few years one of her main goals has been to target the youth in Jordan. "I really love to work with children. It is another world," Sobuh tells *The Star*. Every Tuesday at 4:30 pm Sobuh hosts a television program called Sa'at Al Shabab (Youth Hour) which addresses real issues that effect youth. "This is the first program that targets children between the ages of 14 and 16," Sobuh explains excitedly.

After returning from the United States, Sobuh developed the idea of addressing the youth through a fun, yet informative, program that is completely dedicated to them. "We discuss real issues. We did one show about the riots which occurred after the soccer match and in another

show we discussed the effects of smoking," she says. The show is relatively new and this Tuesday it will be airing its sixth episode. In addition, each episode presents two articles about children's rights as defined by the United Nations. The program ends with a chef who teaches the children about the basics in the kitchen. "Children need to learn to depend on themselves. They can't keep screaming mummy each time they want a sandwich," adds Sobuh.

Such programs have proved very successful in Jordan. JTV's program, the Builders of the Future inspired youth in the community to become active in educational and social issues. Students motivated by the program developed a youth organization addressing the needs of the community. Members of the organization have increased tremendously over the past year to 80, and included students from Amman, Zarqa, Madaba, and Salt.

A lot of people are either writing in or telephoning to express their appreciation of the program, Sobuh explains.

Nonetheless, these are only the first steps. Television programs for children have to be a lot more than 10 percent. Children must be presented with an

option between cartoons and adult programs. More steps must be taken by JTV and the community to produce appropriate programs for our youth. Clear strategies, policies, and recommendation need to be implemented to support children with better programming.

The time has come to define the role that the television will play in our future generations. Perhaps this is best described through a quote by Dr Robert Slaby, a professor of Education and Pediatrics at Harvard University which is endorsed by UNICEF:

"Television is a persistent and effective teacher. Television can continue to teach our children the unrealistic, misleading and deadly lessons that have for decades fostered violence, fear, and decentralization. Or this teacher can design a new lesson plan that will serve the educational and informational needs of children throughout the world by teaching a broad variety of accurate, effective, and life saving solutions to the problem of violence."

The Jordanian community needs to address the inevitable question: Which television teacher will we choose to teach our children? The time to decide has come. ■



Too much TV: Are our children watching the right kind of programs?

● The German Embassy in Amman announces the death of the late Hans Klein, vice president of the German Parliament and former Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation, who passed away in Bonn on 26 November, as a result of severe heart attack at the age of 65.

On this occasion the Embassy would like to point out that the late Mr Klein was a friend of Jordan and a good friend of many Jordanian personalities. Mr Klein was a member of the German Embassy in Amman in the middle of the sixties and of other German embassies in the region. He visited Jordan several times. His last visit to Amman took place in October 1995 at the head of a large Parliamentary delegation.



Ammarin

Lower House delays discussing Ammarin's resignation

Continued from page 1

stituents to decide the future of his parliamentary life.

Deputy Tawjan Faisal was more forthright. She says that the opposition deputies won't accept the resignation. "Deputies should adhere to their responsibilities and defend the dignity of the Lower House," she adds.

"We respect Ammarin's right to resign and the House's right to discuss this action and take a decision on it," she added.

Ammarin was supposed to deliver a critical report criticizing the government and ministers but some deputies advised him against it. They suggested a vote on the resignation but hinted that they would support an indirect apology. However this is considered as unsatisfactory by Ammarin and his supporters.

The Lower House has elected its 14 committees but also postponed discussing other Lower House business till the next session that is expected to be held next Wednesday. ■

CLASSIFIEDS

Social survey

● The University of Bologna in Italy is looking for every foreign students (non-Italian) who graduated in Bologna from 1945. An important social research has been started and a questionnaire will be sent to the graduates contacted. All foreign graduates are kindly asked to write their current address to: Friends or relatives who know useful information are asked to write to: Osservatorio Statistico, Dipartimento di Scienze Statistiche "P. Fortunati", Università di Bologna, via Belle Arti 41, 40126 Bologna BO, ITALIA

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Memorandum signed between the Institute of Diplomacy and ACSS

AMMAN (Star)—With the aim of enhancing cooperative relations with other institutions, and develop Arab scientific exchange, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Arab Centre for Strategic Studies, whose headquarters are in Damascus, and the Jordanian Institute of Diplomacy.

With the blessings of HRH Crown Prince Hassan, chairman of the Institute of Diplomacy, the memorandum was signed by the former President of Yemen Ali Nasser Mohammad, president of the Arab Centre for Strategic Studies, and Dr Mazen Armouti, president of the Institute of Diplomacy.

The memorandum paves the way for cooperation between the two institutions in the fields of strategic and diplomatic studies.

The memorandum refers to cooperation on relevant issues, exchange of expertise, information, and documents, and organization of joint scientific activities in the areas of both institutions' specializations.

This memorandum comes to serve the objectives of the Institute of Diplomacy to enhance and strengthen ties with a number of similar universities, centers, scientific and cultural organizations, and research centers, on both the Arab and international levels. The Institute of Diplomacy

had earlier signed academic affiliation and cooperative agreements with the University of Jordan, the Institute D'etudes Politiques de Paris of France, and Universidad Complutense de Madrid of Spain.

Memoranda of understanding have also been signed with the Arab Planning Institute, whose headquarters are in Kuwait, and the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management. More agreements are expected to be signed with a large number of scientific and research institutes from around the world.

The Arab Centre for Strategic Studies in Damascus was established in April 1995 upon the initiative of President Ali Nasser Mohammad, its objective being the development of Arab scientific research where thinkers from the Arab world could contribute to serving the Arab nation. The achievement of this objective, the Centre believes, makes it imperative to adopt a policy of openness from an Arab perspective based on the belief that cultural dialogue is a pre-requisite for development. ■

Plan for Israeli fair provokes

Continued from page 1

eration between Jordanian businessmen and their Israeli counterparts.

"What kind of cooperation they are talking about?" Azzar asked. "How can we cooperate when Israel is intransigent and is derailing peace talks on all tracks?"

But there are those who find the idea of holding an exhibition of Israeli products in Amman natural. "We have signed a peace treaty with Israel, we should respect it," Jordanian economist Dr Fahd Al Fanek said. He said it is natural to hold such an exhibition in spite of the political stalemate. "If we do not permit the fair, will the Hebron problem be solved?" he asked.

Many Jordanian businessmen said they do not object to doing business with Israel but only after a comprehensive and a just peace has been achieved. They said that cooperation with Israel at this stage is premature because of the skepticism that threatens the peace process.

"Despite the peace treaty such an idea is unacceptable, the peace treaty does not force us to deal with the Israelis as it does not prevent us from doing so," Azzar said. "Israel wants us to buy its goods while it does not want to buy our products, and

while it prevents us from exporting our goods to Palestine."

"We need to hold Jordanian-Palestinian trade fairs not Jordanian-Israeli ones," Taba'a said. "We are against this exhibition, it is unwelcome in Jordan, and we will not receive any Israeli businessman coming here."

Mr Al Nasser said he received permission from the Ministry of the Trade and Industry to hold the exhibition since last June. However, a Ministry source said the ministry had no idea about the planned fair. Officials at the Greater Amman Municipality said they have not received an application to hold the fair.

But informed sources told *The Star* that Al Nasser received a permit to hold his exhibition a year ago, but that the announcement was delayed till recently to avoid pressure killing the project.

In another development, the opposition camp, parties and legislators, met at the Arab Forum in Amman to discuss steps to block the holding of the fair. They formed a committee to mobilize support against the fair and discussed the possibility of bringing a lawsuit against its organizer. ■

Jordanian held in Israel for mistaken identity, later released

AMMAN (Star)—Allegations that Israel accused a Jordanian citizen for spying was later found to be untrue. The man, Nabil Hudli, was detained at the beginning of the month by a Tel Aviv court order, but it was later found that they had the wrong man.

The Shin Bet was looking for somebody belonging to a hostile organization, but they got the names all mixed up. Shin Bet was clearly not embarrassed. Hudli was detained for two weeks before he was released.

Poor man, he had arrived in Jaffa at the beginning of this year to marry a local Arab girl sources said. At the beginning of the trial the Israeli press was banned from reporting the case but were later allowed to do so. ■

Reshuffle planned for April ahead of separation of powers

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ty is to monitor the performance of the government and hold the ministers accountable for their actions.

Former Minister of Information Dr Hani Al Khasawneh said that "it is a good time to implement the policy of the separation of powers. The objective of most candi-

dates who run for the Lower House today is to be qualified for a ministerial post."

Deputy Dr Abdullah Akaleh, a former minister, said the race for the ministerial post limits the authority of the deputy.

However, the Jordanian Constitution has not addressed such an issue and has not made that separation. ■

Gas pipeline brings controversy to Myanmar community

Continued from page 1

they face severe repercussions if the popular opposition leader is harmed.

Earlier this year, Congress passed a law directing the president to impose stiff penalties, including a ban on new US investment in Myanmar, if the human rights situation worsens. It is not clear whether Unocal would be affected, since opinions differ as to whether "new investment" includes additional money for ongoing projects or simply new projects.

Unocal and its foreign partners are attempting to make their case in the public debate. This month they took the unusual step of inviting a small group of foreign journalists to visit the heavily guarded Yadana project and "see for themselves" that accusations of forced relocation of villagers, environmental degradation and conscripted labor are untrue.

In the companies' view, the choice is clear. Economic development and political openness go hand in hand. The Yadana pipeline (named after the Burmese word for treasure) will not only provide profits for them, but help boost Myanmar's struggling economy.

The Yadana pipeline, Myanmar's largest foreign

investment, will carry natural gas from a rich offshore field across that country and into Thailand, which is purchasing most of the energy. However, nearly a quarter of the production has been promised to energy-starved Myanmar for a fertilizer plant and power facility.

Compared with other bustling Asian cities, the streets of Yangon—formerly Rangoon—are not jammed with foreign cars and motor bikes. One eye-pleasing benefit of delayed development is the preservation of the British colonial architecture, the lush greenery and the absence of skyscrapers, even in Myanmar's capital.

But after a few days in this repressive country—where the state-controlled *The New Light of Myanmar* newspaper exhorts its readers to "crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy"—it becomes clear that only a piece of this story can be found in the companies' statistics and a guided tour.

Herve Madoe, the charismatic French engineer who is president of Total Myanmar Exploration and Production, has less than six months to finish laying 2,700 steel pipes across this rugged mountainous terrain. After that, torrential rains will turn this

remote countryside into an impenetrable mass of sodden underbrush and water.

The price of failure, small or large, is costly. A one-day delay in construction costs more than \$100,000. If the consortium doesn't have the pipeline up and running by 1998, it must pay a penalty fee to Thailand.

But Madoe, who came here from Indonesia in 1992 to oversee the Yadana project, is used to that sort of pressure. It is as social worker and community planner that he is in uncharted, and uncomfortable, territory.

In a poor country made even poorer by the government's decision to spend more money on arms and less on education, this French businessman finds himself in charge of an ambitious development program that includes helping villagers find new ways of making money and improving their health.

This effort has apparently begun to take root. U Hele, a 55-year-old fisherman from Damlaseik, said his life has improved since the foreign companies came to town.

"We have a new school, a new clinic and a doctor," he said under the watchful eyes of oil company and government officials. "Our village has improved."

But well-meaning efforts also have gone awry. When Total first set up its base camp in this unpopulated area, Madoe instructed the kitchen to buy all its products locally in an effort to support the farmers. He stopped after discovering that his company's large purchases of eggs and vegetables were driving up the local price of food astronomically.

Total and its partners need the community's support, particularly in light of the territorial conflicts and ethnic rivalries that have plagued this former British colony before and after it gained its independence in 1948.

That message was brought home last March, when a group of armed men ambushed a pipeline convoy carrying fuel, employees and some SLORC soldiers who had been guarding the company's equipment. Five Total employees, all locals, were killed and 11 others wounded. No one has been arrested for the attack, although it could have been unhappy villagers or any of several dozen insurgent groups.

Total's base camp is now surrounded by a double-perimeter fence topped with rolls of barbed wire. Unarmed company guards man the gate and patrol the facility.

The Yadana project's greatest vulnerability, and the area where its operators face the most passionate criticism, is its security pact with a military force that has been accused of widespread abuse by groups that include Human Rights Watch Asia and the US State Department.

Myanmar's troops are young, underpaid and untrained, a recipe for disaster in a remote region where there is little risk of getting caught.

The Myanmar armed forces are responsible for securing the pipeline but have not done any work on the project or been paid "one cent" by the pipeline operators, according to Madoe. But company officials concede privately that they are not directly responsible for, and therefore cannot control, the soldiers.

Madoe says that in the few instances where Total has learned of forced labor—such as when the military "borrowed" a villager's bullock cart he has compensated the aggrieved.

But the Total executive said he is certain the military has not committed widespread abuse in the pipeline region—including forced labor—since the contract was signed in 1992.

"There are a lot of people out there—I don't know why—

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After the downpour: A scene from the havoc

Heavy rainfall causes havoc in the south

The unstable weather conditions continue to prevail in the south. Heavy rain last Monday caused havoc in Petra, Wadi Musa and South Tabeeh. Three people were reported dead, one of them a 65-year-old tourist from Holland. The rain caused flooding, blocking of roads and disruption of electricity supply. The floods swept away at least six cars with other construction materials. Later on, and on the road to Ma'an, a bridge collapsed and three people were injured. HRH Prince Abdullah, the Minister of Interior, Awadh Khleifat and the Minister of Tourism, Saleh Isheidaat all rushed to the area to see the extent of the damages. About 500 tourists were in Petra at the time, but they were all moved to safer places. The worst affected area was Wadi Musa. Under direct instruction from HRH Prince Hassan, the Minister of Public Works, Mr Abdel Hadi Al Majali, joined the other ministers to inspect the damages in the area.

15 years hard labor for attackers on General Intelligence office

The State Security Court issued its verdict regarding those who were involved in the attack on the General Intelligence office in Baqa'a. The four were given stiff penalties. All four attackers were given a 15-year sentence of hard labor. The three-man panel of judges which were unanimous, based their verdict on the Criminal Law no. 16 of 1960. The weapons that were used in the attack were confiscated. However, the verdict may be appealed at the Court of Cassation. In another case, the same court found Mohammad Salameh Murad Al Duweik innocent of the Lase Majeste charge. The court stated there was an insufficient evidence that the 42-year-old lawyer had committed this verbal offence against His Majesty King Hussein.

Anemia in the country

About 28.6 percent of Jordanian women suffer from anemia. The latest study, which includes the lack of iron, on the 15-49 age group, was conducted by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with UNICEF. The percentage is slightly less than the figures for Asian, African and Latin American countries which are averaging around 29 percent. However, the figure for the world is quite high at 37 percent. The study, which is considered the first of its kind in this part of the world, is comprehensive. The least anemia women were found in the Ajloun Governorate at 15.6 percent and Jerash 17.7 percent. However, the highest percentage was found in Tafleeh at 38.5 percent. This was followed by Irbid at 32.9 percent, Ma'an 28.2 percent, Amman 27.1 percent, Karak 25.8 percent, Balqa 23.3 percent and Madaba 21.1 percent.

Shbeilat's public life

Could Leith Shbeilat become active again in political life is what everybody's asking. This is especially after he patronized the "Palestine Week" in Irbid. The activity is organized by the Committee for the Protection of the Homeland and the Struggle against Normalization. This is the first public activity Shbeilat participates in after he received a Royal Pardon. Nobody is saying whether this is the beginning for a new revitalized role for the President of Jordan's Engineers Association. But the officials of the organizing committee of the Week were quick to point out that Shbeilat's role was limited to patronizing the event. They argue that Shbeilat had not given any lectures for instance. According to Al Majd, Shbeilat will meet His Majesty King Hussein after the latter returns from London.

Muscle power

It would appear that the Lower House of Parliament has teeth after all. Although it was never confirmed at the time, it would appear that the speaker of the Lower House, Sued Hayel Al Snoon never sent out an invitation to the Israeli ambassador to attend the last President Jacques Chirac's speech which he gave at the House when he was in Jordan. All the other ambassadors were there, but not Mr Shimon Shamir. This led to a bit of a diplomatic wobble with the Israeli ambassador issuing a formal protest according to Al Bilad. In turn, the Jordanian ambassador in Tel Aviv, Mr Omar Al Rifa'i, was called by the Israeli government for an explanation but none was given. Despite later intervention by the government, it was argued at the time that this was a Lower House matter.

TCC workers guaranteed employment

The privatization of the Jordan Telecommunication Corp. (TCC), is not affecting the status of its employees. The workers who are worried that they might be laid off can now rest assured according to Mr Jamal Al Saraiha, the minister of post and telecommunications. He said that all the 4427 employees of the TCC will be transferred to work into the Jordan Electricity Co., by the beginning of 1997.

Bank's employees demand rights

The employees of the Cairo-Amman Bank in the West Bank and Gaza staged a strike that lasted for about an hour and a half. However, the president of the Banking and Insurance Association in Jordan, Mr Abdullah Khalil said that he had no knowledge of that. Though he said he knew about the fact that the employees of the bank on the other side of the river wanted to set an association to protect their rights. The Cairo-Amman Bank has 19 branches in the West Bank and Gaza and about 800 employees.

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Jamal Rifa'i/Al-Dustour

Regent calls for better utilization of resources for development

AMMAN (Star)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has stressed the importance of introducing comprehensive development into the Jordan Valley area including all factors of production such as agriculture, industry, transportation and energy. His statements came during a tour of areas in the middle and southern Ghor and the Jerash Governorate Sunday. The Prince called for the ideal utilization of water resources and the improvement of water quality especially from the King Talal Dam. The Prince also called for the development of agricultural methods and for the production of marketable products.

He also visited local schools and was briefed on the conditions of schools and students in the region. The Prince visited Gaza refugee camp and reviewed services and facilities there.

He called for the execution of various public utility projects in the

camp. He also listened to briefings and demands made by camp representatives, who headed His Majesty King Hussein and the Crown Prince. Later the Regent visited the city of Jerash and toured the old marketplace and talked to residents of the city.

Prince Hassan continued his tour by visiting the Bani Hassan settlements in the Mafraq village and called for upgrading the level of services provided to citizens in the Jerash Governorate.

The Prince stressed the need for further development in the



four northern governorates within the confines of the one Zarqa Basin. He also called for setting up a northern governorates bureau to inform citizens there of job opportunities and to ensure cooperation with government ministries.

Electricity workers plan to strike again if talks fail

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

THE WORKERS of the Jordan Electricity Power Co. (JEPCO) would appear to have ended a five-day strike last Monday, after an initial agreement last Sunday to start talks. However, they promised to continue with the strike if their demands are not met.

The industrial action which was organized by the Trade Union of Electricity Workers (TUEW) had one aim: To force the company to improve the working conditions of its employees.

It was only after extensive efforts were made by two Islamic Action Front deputies that the strike was called off. Mr Hamzah Mansour and Dr Abdullah Al Akailah became involved at the request of the TUEW. This was part of an elaborate process of negotiations that reached all the way to the Minister of Labor Dr Abdel Halif Shakhanbeh. The president of the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU), Mr Khalid Shraim also took an active part.

The agreement was signed by the TUEW and the management of the company. It included a number of conditions to smooth the dispute between the company and the workers and now serves as a basis for a round of meetings between the concerned parties in dispute.

Workers and management agreed that the Labor Ministry will cancel any article in the October 1995 agreement, especially those clauses that go against the interests of the workers. Further, it will seek to



Strikes like this could reoccur if settlement is not reached

restore workers' rights and privileges, something they previously enjoyed—prior to the date of the October agreement between the TUEW and the JEPCO—and to implement all related legislations.

In addition, the management promised not to penalize those workers who struck and will not deduct their wage packets for the five-day strike.

The agreement pledged the parties not to take legal action against the administrative council of the TUEW for holding the strike. But the most important part of the agreement is the formation of a conciliation committee to settle the controversy.

The GFTU, which opposed the strike and threatened to dissolve the TUEW council, was asked not to take any measures against the union activists who were behind the strike.

The reconciliation committee, set up by the concerned parties, held its first meeting

last Tuesday. However, efforts to reach a settlement have so far failed.

The committee, which includes three JEPCO and three TUEW representatives, will meet again today Thursday under the supervision of Lower House deputy Theeb Abdallah to work out a formula to put a permanent end to the dispute.

However, TUEW officials warn that the dispute will not end so long as the company continues to reject workers' demands that were set at a meeting with the Labour Minister last Thursday. The outcome of today's meeting will be final, they argue.

"We ended the strike after the enormous pressure we received from the ministry, the company, the labor federation, and the Amman Governor," Mr Khalid Al Maaita, head of the TUEW, told The Star. "The union was subjected to numerous telephone calls, cursing and threats through taxes."

Early this week, Mr Maaita asked workers to carry on the strike from their homes after a warrant was issued by the Governor of Amman, banning them from striking in the company's courtyard.

The council of the union is doubtful about reaching a settlement in the workers' demands despite the agreement agreed on Sunday.

The workers are demanding an additional three-month annual salary and a "work risk" allowance. This would secure a 20 percent raise for each worker.

Mr Maaita said that "the agreement does not satisfy the minimum demands of the workers and it favored the companies interests." He said that deputies Mansour and Al Akailah only helped to compromise the situation. "They told us that this is the only solution, you have to take it," he said.

"If today's Thursday meeting does not address our demands, we will protest, this time we will use other forms, including hunger strikes," he added.

Dr Shakhanbeh points out that if the reconciliation committee fails to find a solution, the government will refer the case to the Industrial Court, and its decision will be final and non-constant.

Both the Ministry and the labor federation have described the strike as illegal and urged workers to return to their jobs.

Workers on the other hand believe that they have the right to strike as protected by the labor law. They accused the ministry and the federation of favoring the electricity company.

Netanyahu's visit delivers stunning blow to peace efforts

Continued from page 1

cial that a new crisis with the Palestinians is not far off because of the stalemate in talks over Israel's long-delayed withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron.

"Just the fact that the prime minister in a formal way arrives in Judea and Samaria, especially in a time like this—that's the real meaning," said the leader of the main umbrella group representing the settlers, Pinchas Wallerstein, who used the biblical names for the West Bank. "Everything else is ceremonial."

Eli resident Dan Polisar said the prime minister's trip so far beyond the so-called Green Line would be noticed by all of the nearly 150,000 West Bank and Gaza Strip settlers. "He is saying, 'I view you as part of Israel,'" Polisar said.

Netanyahu's boldest rhetorical gambit came on the first stop of his helicopter tour, at the much larger settlement of Ariel. There he sought to appropriate the "apartheid" label that has sometimes been applied by critics of Israeli military rule over Palestinians, who have no voice in Israeli decision-making and are subject to much less favorable laws than the Jewish settlers who live among them.

"I can't understand the logic of an apartheid peace," Netanyahu said. "The Palestinians and some Israelis better get used to the idea that we're going to live together. We are not going to create any apartheid here. Forget it."

Arafat, who spent the day in Bethlehem, launched a biting attack on Netanyahu's performance in the Hebron talks. He described the Israeli leader as attempting to go back on treaty obligations.

"I hope that he will have the ability to read the agreement, or at least his advisers," Arafat said. "If he thinks that I will agree to his conditions, he is mistaken."

Netanyahu repeated longtime themes that the mutual recognition accord between Israelis and Palestinians were a mistake and that the previous Labor Party governments made far too many concessions to Palestinian self-rule. He said that the Palestinians would "need a period of time in get used to" his tougher demands, but that they would bow to them if the Jewish people were united and strong.

Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin halted government funding of the housing construction and expressed disdain for the settlers during his tenure, which was cut short a year ago by a Jewish assassin opposed to his agreement to trade land for peace with the Palestinians. Furthermore, Rabin and his successor, Shimon Peres, had indicated a willingness to evacuate remote settlements such as Eli that were not considered vital to Israel's security in a final peace agreement with the Palestinians.

Netanyahu said he will not agree under any circumstances to uproot any Jewish settlement in the coming round of negotiations. Jews will continue to live everywhere in the West Bank, he said, and will continue to build there according to "natural growth."

In Washington on Tuesday, the Clinton administration delivered its sharpest attack yet on the settlement policy of Israel's Likud government. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Netanyahu's trip to the West Bank outposts was "not useful and not constructive."

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After it accepted UN terms Iraq hopes to start selling its oil next month

Continued from page 1

had delivered a letter containing Iraq's official acceptance. She quoted the secretary general as saying: "I am optimistic we will have movement within the next few weeks."

After Boutros-Ghali briefed the Security Council, US ambassador Madeleine K. Albright said his report was "good news for the Iraqi people and good news for the United States." Other US officials, who asked not to be identified, said they now are satisfied that the UN department of humanitarian affairs, which will monitor distribution activities, will be able to ensure that relief supplies earmarked for the Kurds reach the intended beneficiaries.

It would be the first time in the six years since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 that Baghdad would be allowed to sell oil on the world market.

Sales are to be tightly monitored to ensure that revenues go solely for humanitarian purposes and are not diverted to prop up the Iraqi regime or strengthen its army.

Citing strong demand and low reserves at refineries, oil analysts said the Iraqi oil sales are likely to only slightly reduce the cost of a barrel of oil on world markets.

Although an oil-for-food deal has been offered to Iraq since the end of the 1991 Gulf War, Saddam had steadfastly refused it on grounds that it restricted Iraq's sovereignty. When Iraq decided to em-

brace the plan in May, it said it was only doing so in the hope that it would lead to the lifting of all the economic sanctions that now hamper it from selling oil.

The situation was complicated further in September when Saddam's forces attacked dissident Kurds in northern Iraq. The United States had been especially insistent that distribution of relief supplies to the Kurds be handled by agencies beyond Baghdad's control, and US officials said the Iraqi army's incursion into the north had altered the conditions of the May agreement.

The larger sanctions remain in place until the United Nations is satisfied that Iraq has destroyed all its long-range missiles and abandoned all attempts to develop nuclear, biological or chemical weapons. Iraq says it has complied, but UN arms monitor Kofi Annan says he believes six to 16 Iraqi missiles remain unaccounted for, and there are question marks about its other weapons programs.

Relief officials say the oil revenues cannot come too soon, because food stores inside Iraq are nearly exhausted and funds are dwindling. "For us it would make a big difference. We could meet our targets and we could certainly do a lot more," said Philippe Hottelink, the senior officer for the UN Children's Fund in Iraq.

UNICEF reported last month that 4,500 children under age 5 were dying each month in Iraq of hunger and disease. Severe malnutrition among the children had gone up 400 percent since the Gulf war. Popular sentiment in other Arab countries was beginning to support the idea that a US hard line on lifting the embargo was hurting common people, not Iraq's leaders.

UN diplomatic sources said Baghdad may have acquiesced now because it has extracted the best deal it could from Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, whose reelection it backs, and could only do worse with a successor.

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Our Say...

Dealing with Netanyahu's megalomania

SAUDI CALL this week on the two co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process to intervene and remove obstacles facing the current negotiations is timely. For without urgent intervention, especially by the United States, the peace process may be living its last days. If the process crumbles and the region is thrown back into a state of uncertainty and even military confrontation, then the list of those who stand to lose from the whole fiasco will be long indeed.

We say this as we point to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statements during his visit to Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank this week. Mr Netanyahu may have pushed the peace process closer to the abyss when he made it clear that his government will continue to expand settlements, that these settlements will not be removed and that the Palestinians will just have to learn to accept his vision for peace where Israel rules supreme anywhere on the land of Palestine.

In reality, the peace process is lost. Redeployment of troops in Hebron is no longer the issue here, but Israel's unyielding view of how things should be for the Palestinians—no matter the cost. In reality, Netanyahu's policies are preparing the ground for a bloody confrontation between Arabs and Jews. In reality, this Israeli government does not give a hoot about regional cooperation, comprehensive and just peace and peaceful coexistence with its neighbors. In reality, this government is not run by Netanyahu, but by a throng of narrow-minded religious extremists who control the political fortunes of a disillusioned and megalomaniac prime minister. In reality, the United States knows this and is undecided about what it should do to deal with the situation.

That leaves us with the presumption that Netanyahu will bend under US pressure and change his colors. He won't, not because he does not care about US influence, but because he really believes he is leading Israel into the promised land.

But just as the Clinton administration, with all its clout, failed to give former prime minister Shimon Peres a second term in office, it is doubtful that it will be able, if the political will was made available that is, to force Netanyahu to review his policies and keep to the rules of engagement of the peace process.

But the United States, as well as other friends of Israel, can make it hard for Netanyahu to destroy the peace process while we all sit and watch. Take the settlements, for example. If the Israeli government is determined to go ahead with its policy of fattening existing settlements, then the United States should make sure that he is denied the funds to do just that. Denying Israel the necessary financial instruments needed to expand settlements is something that is within Washington's reach.

The truth of the matter is that change in Israel will have to come from within. We must remember that at least half of the Israeli society is totally against Netanyahu and what he stands for. And not all who voted for him in May approve of his myopic policies today. Netanyahu should not have it so easy. While those who oppose his policies in Israel get themselves organized, the US and others must deny him the chance to get away with his destructive designs. ■

Letters to the Editor

The Big Bagel

To the editor,
Dr Brandabar's "modest proposal" (*The Star* 21 November, 1996) to build a replica of the Hebron Mosque in the Big Bagel will only stir up more resentment among *Noo Yawkers*. Imagine for a moment them taking over Elain's or Mor-simer's.

What a disaster this would be. In my not so humble opinion they should be packed and sent to the Negev desert.

First of all there's plenty of space. Secondly someone needs to get the desert blooming, and thirdly they will get more satisfaction of conquering the desert than shooting at Arabs with whom so far they have had no quarrel.

Let's hope that as a Negev-based force in Israeli society they may also become the new peacemakers. And who knows perhaps Prime Minister Netanyahu may be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Christian Doumit
Amman

European double standards?

To the editor,
Like many Arabs I was shocked by the release

of a videotape of physical abuse by two Israeli soldiers of Palestinian workers. What's new? Abuse, humiliation, torture and killings have been going on since Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in 1967. Israeli practices are not different from those of South Africa under apartheid. But the world stood firmly then and rejected South Africa's abuses. My question is why is world opinion apathetic when it comes to Israel's violations of human rights? Let's forget for a while about the US position, which is biased in favor of Israel.

Let's ask ourselves why the Europeans, the Japanese among others in the civilized world, tend to turn away and pretend that such abuses do not occur. Israel keeps reminding the Europeans that they had encouraged Hitler's Holocaust by ignoring mounting evidence of Germany's persecution of Jews even before the Second War. Isn't this happening again in Palestine today? How many Palestinians died in cold blood in front of their homes, in their fields, or in Israeli concentration camps in the past year alone? Europe's double standards and its hypocrisy hurts us even more than that of the United States.

Ahmad Madi,
Amman.

A view from America

Remember Beirut: remember Mogadishu

By Carrie Nelle Moye
Star US correspondent

FOR A little while, forget "Remember the Alamo." For a little while, forget "Remember the Maine." For the present, remember and remember our Marines in Beirut in 1983 and our troops in Mogadishu (Somalia) in 1993.

One always thinks present and future generations will learn from past and present experiences but for whatever reasons most of us repeat mistakes, often those committed recently. How can we plead with our government strongly enough to remember, either Beirut or Mogadishu? On both occasions we had broad, deep humanitarian reasons to send our troops to assist. On both occasions we went as security personnel to help maintain peace, prevent deaths, and in the case of Somalia to disburse food.

Yet we made the very same mistake in 1992-93 we had made a decade earlier. We left our role as a peace-keeper and

took sides. Prior to our Marines' going to Beirut, the Lebanese on both sides of the civil-war/Israeli invasion (abetted by the Lebanese Phalangist party) were more than just happy we were to be there. Many were overtly ecstatic for they craved an end to the years-long violence (the Civil War began in 1975; the Israeli "Peace for Galilee" invasion began in 1982).

The French went. The Italians went. Most importantly to the Lebanese, the Americans went.

Ecstasy soon turned to consternation, then disbelief, then intense anger, as the French and US contingents, under orders emanating from their capitals (as opposed to leaders in the field) began taking sides. Both expatriate forces lost sight of the original purpose for being present. Both forces were hit devastatingly by terrorist bombers, suffering great loss of which we all are aware.

We lost Marines; we lost our honor and credibility with the Lebanese. We departed, leav-

ing the city in a country we had gone to assist in stabilizing peace in a more destabilized and disillusioned state than which we had entered.

The Italians, having remained true to their purpose, were untouched by terrorists.

This is not the forum to relive yet again the unbelievably vulnerable physical position in which we had placed our troops when our intention changed from that of being peace-keeper to that of aggressor. But the memory never can be erased from our minds.

Not quite a decade had passed when we responded to the urgent international call to go to Somalia to serve as peace-keepers there. The arrival of our troops was heralded by spotlights and television cameras rolling for all the world to witness. "Operation Hope" could have been of incalculable assistance to the poverty-stricken people of that most forsaken of lands.

But one can only think that our military leaders had erased from their minds the lesson of

Beirut. For it was not long before we sent troops on search-and-destroy missions to find the elusive war lord Mohammad Farah Aydid.

This in no way was our reason for being in Somalia. As we know nauseatingly well, this gargantuan mistake resulted in unimaginable horror culminating in the world's remembering not that hopeful night when troops waded ashore but rather the horrendous desecration of a US serviceman's body being drug through the filthy, dirt "streets" of Mogadishu.

Now we have been told our mission in Bosnia, under the auspices of NATO, will be extended by a year or so. Further we are anticipating a decision as to whether and how many troops we shall send to help alleviate the suffering of the Rwandan people.

In Bosnia we have been rather successful thus far. Perhaps our young nation is beginning to learn the diplomatic sphere of foreign policy. This is not to imply we must remain inanimate if our forces are fired upon. Rather, we must not choose the Serbs over the Croats or the Bosnians or whatever except when necessary to protect our own forces. And we must ever be mindful of this.

Rwanda is a bit more shaky. On the ground international aid personnel plead with the world community to help get food to the wandering refugees who have fled and returned, and to those who have fled and been unable to return.

We see the results of massacres. We see the emaciated, crippled, disease-ridden bodies searching with hollow eyes. Yet we are told by the Rwandan government we are not needed or wanted. We have a difficult decision to make. Which takes precedence, humanitarian compassion or functional leadership?

We know the decision regarding Bosnia. As this is written we have no final word regarding Rwanda. Regardless, it is imperative our leaders, our troops and our citizens remember our mission. If we have yet to learn this lesson, we can expect further tragedy. ■



Embroided in Mogadishu: A US marine points his weapon at alleged gunmen

Torture unlimited

By Mohammad Mulhim

IN THE New World Order, some like to refer to Israel as "the oasis of democracy." In this so-called democracy, injustice rules supreme, for Palestinians especially.

One of the darkest chapters in this grim chronicle is the torture practiced secretly and publicly by the Israeli authorities, the settlers and other groups. The publications of Amnesty International, the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Bethlehem in Israel, Al Haq Group in Ramallah, Middle East Watch, the Palestine Human Rights and Environment, and the Arab Organization for Human Rights all document hundreds of violations of basic human rights especially the torture of detainees and prisoners.

These, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, are legally and in fact prisoners of war and should be treated humanely. They also should have periodic visits from relatives and friends and have access to the media until released. In fact the same convention calls for their immediate release when hostilities cease.

It is well known that hostilities ceased when Chairman Arafat issued the Cairo Declaration long before the Oslo Declaration of Principles.

In the Occupied Territories, that includes the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem and even inside Israel, to some extent, torture is the rule and not the exception.

Programmed torture, poor nutrition and other hideous practices rendered the majority of prisoners skeletons unrecognizable even by their next of kin. Many lost their sight, others are crippled and some even lost their senses. Many indeed even lost their lives under torture. The authorities simply ordered investigations by officials who usually blame the victim or some unknown source.

In 1987 and following the scandals and abuses referred to above, a judicial commission headed by Mr Landau submitted its report on torture. Surprisingly enough, this notorious report called for administering torture to a certain extent, but, if possible, short of death. Even this provision did not prevent the death of

many prisoners later. In 1994 it was decided to increase the degrees of torture.

Even this vile rule fell short of pleasing the torturers. Mr Mohammed A. Aziz Hamdan had been detained a few weeks ago and again subjected to torture, but no confessions were extracted. His lawyers obtained an interim order forbidding further torture. This order was challenged by the Shin Bet and the Israeli Supreme Court, repealed the interim order and called for further physical force and additional torture in addition to shaking, beating and burns etc.

The Convention against Torture ratified by Israel, prevents torture and other methods of inhuman, harsh or degrading treatment. Furthermore the same convention states that torture is illegal and should not be resorted to under any pretext whatsoever even during war or states of emergency. It is universally agreed that any confession extracted by force or even the threat to use force or similar means is null and void.

Surprisingly enough, as Mr Burns, a prominent human rights activist points out, "Is-

rael, until recently, maintained that electric shocks, shackles, beating, burns, dipping in cold and hot water and nail pulling do not constitute torture."

The same malpractices are the subject of Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which provides that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

It is difficult to imagine more flagrant violation of these basic human rights, and it is even more difficult to believe that such methods are legalized by a court. We call upon Human Rights Organizations to take all possible measures not only to publicly denounce such inhumane practices but to take active steps to eventually release all the Palestinian prisoners and detainees and to bring pressure to bear on the judicial and security organs in Israel to abandon and refrain from such methods. ■

The author, who contributed this article to *The Star*, is a lawyer by profession.



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Middle East Beat by Khairi Janbe

Refugee provinces

IT WAS a major success for Mr Arafat to Paris, where the donor Conference approved the financial aid package to the Palestinian National Authority.

This package is in contrast with the recent UNRWA decision to reduce aid to the Palestinian refugees outside the Palestinian self-rule areas. Even from the first impression, one gets the feeling that there is a serious imbalance in the treatment of the Palestinian refugees within the Palestinian national issue.

The concentration of financial assistance on the self-rule areas exclusively, is serious since it is likely to ignore the plight of Palestinian refugees living outside the Palestinian territories.

Perhaps it is the beginning of the liquidation of the term "Palestinian Refugee," and the emergence of the dangerous policy of assimilating the refugees in the respective communities they live in. We ought to drive home the fact that there are Palestinian refugees living in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

They still hold a refugee status, and still dream of a solution that offers them the dignified choice of determining their own future. Whether there is a reduction in funds for the refugees, or complete and exclusive financial support concentrated in the PNA areas, the fact remains that the refugee status of the Palestinian people in all the provinces, cannot be negated by what seems clearly, an attempt to wipe out their existence from the accountants' books.

Without attempting to, deliberately or unintentionally, misconstrue the intentions of UNRWA and the donor countries, what is on offer is nothing more than an international decision to incorporate the Palestinian refugees in each province they live in, and nationalize their identity without any choice; at the same time as if through financial muscle, the international community has decided who is a Palestinian and who is not.

To liquidate the Palestinian identity through international organs is a dangerous as well as an indifferent attitude that lacks imagination. For Jordan, the case is very clear. Our country is not only a host to the Palestinian refugees, but also a major donor country.

The criteria used by Jordan regarding the Palestinian refugees is very clear and direct. The issue of nationalizing the Palestinian identity, assimilating or integrating their hopes and aspirations, contradicts what Jordan has stood for all those years in keeping the torch of hope burning, to remedy the ills and injustices inflicted upon the Palestinian refugees.

They have the rights and privileges preserved by every Jordanian without any discrimination, and they will continue to enjoy those rights without jeopardizing their choice of identity.

Jordan can only do so, by insisting on its principled stance, of either fulfilling the right of return to the Palestinian refugees, or their adequate compensation under international law. The issue cannot be solved by conspiratorial methods, nor by international financial pressures. For the aim is neither integrating, nor assimilating the Palestinian refugees in any of the host provinces, but rather rehabilitating the whole region on a non-discriminatory basis. ■

The Star
652380

Palestine Post



Four Palestinian workers re-enact, Monday, the ill-treatment that they were subjected to by two Israeli border guards.

Israel could be having a hard time

Israel could be having a hard time in terms of public relations. According to Israeli diplomats in Europe, the United States, and Latin America, the tide could be turning against Israeli fortunes. They report that this has been particularly so since the last two weeks and is very much related to Israeli intransigence over the redeployment issue in Hebron. Reports that came in from Bonn and Rome for example point out that the Israeli ambassadors there are finding it very difficult in justifying the current Israeli policy in the Hebron negotiations. Israel is increasingly seen to be pussy-footing the talks.

Settlements get the thumbs down!

Israeli settlements are now exceedingly becoming a bone of contention between the Arabs and Israelis. It appears that Israel can't have its cake and eat it. It can't pay lip service to the peace process while it is bent on building more settlements or expanding new ones in the Occupied Territories. First to express his displeasure was Dr. Amr Mousa, the Egyptian Foreign Minister. He said that Egypt is currently studying carefully the Israeli settlements issue through the decisions reached during the Arab summit. He added that the last summit agreed that if Israel continues in its hardline stance, the Arab countries will have no choice but to reconsider the process of normalization that is currently going on. He added that such an Israeli policy of thickening and expanding settlement in the Occupied Territories, Jerusalem and the Golan Heights is a flagrant violation of international law and the principles of the peace process.

Dr. Mousa added that the Arab summit that was held in June pointed out that the Arab countries will not just sit back and take the new Israeli policy which is bringing the region into increased tensions. The Israelis in turn were quick to react. The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel has no intentions of building settlements on the Golan Heights. He emphasized that nobody has been given the "green light" to build any settlements on the heights. He said that any settlement projects in the Occupied Territories would have to be approved by the government. But this is seen as pep talk. Such projects are going on. The newly created Ministry of Infrastructure has given the go-ahead to build 900 units on settlements in the Golan Heights.

Washington condemns Israeli court decision on torturing Palestinian prisoners

A spokesman in the US State Department has condemned a resolution endorsed by the Israeli courts allowing torture of Palestinian prisoners. This behaviour is described by as "uncivilized." He also expressed deep worry about the Israeli soldiers' callous behaviour in dealing with Palestinian detainees.

The UN Committee to Combat Torture, has also condemned the latest Israeli court decision which allows the use of force in questioning suspects in the Occupied Territories.

"Such a decision does not justify Israeli doubts about their security," a Canadian member of the committee says. Committee experts have urged the Israeli government to provide them with a special report on this decision to be discussed during their next meeting which is due between 28 April—9 May, 1997, in Geneva.

Israel settlement controversy continues to claim lives

By Nicholas Goldberg
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

NAALIN. Occupied West Bank—When Atallah Amira died last week, he was striding toward a line of Israeli troops, waving a sign that read "No Peace with Settlements" and carrying in his pocket papers he said proved the ownership of his land.

The land—10 acres on a nearby hill overlooking the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Sefer—had been handed down over the years from his grandfather to his father to him. But a few weeks ago, the Israeli government announced that Kiryat Sefer was expanding and that Amira's olive groves would be among those taken away.

"Atallah didn't say much that morning, he just ate his breakfast and told me before he left, Inshallah, we're going to keep our land,"

said his wife, Hana, who is pregnant with the couple's eighth child. "How could I know then what was going to happen?" Amira's death—he was shot in the chest and killed instantly after Palestinian protesters began throwing stones at Israeli soldiers—received little attention outside the village. He is only the most recent casualty in a 30-year war between the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Israelis, who occupied the land and began building settlements on it in 1967.

Over the years, the toll of the occupation has been a steep one. Since the beginning of the intifada, the Palestinian uprising that began in 1987, some 1,500 Palestinians have died at one another's hands in the territories.

During the last three years, as the peace process with the Palestinians progressed under the Labor Party government of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, it looked like Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza—and the creation of an expanded "greater Israel"—was slowing.

Although Jewish settlers continued to move to the territories and new housing units were still being built, the growth was closely monitored and was limited to certain geographical

areas close to the "green line" border with Israel. Financial incentives for moving to the territories were cut back, and the ongoing peace negotiations made it uncertain whether settlers would even be allowed to remain.

But now, with a new government

But now, with a new government in place, the tide is once again turning. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has always supported settlement in the West Bank and Gaza, has said he hopes to increase the number of Jewish settlers in the territories from the current level of 140,000.

ment in place, the tide is once again turning. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has always supported settlement in the West Bank and Gaza, has said he hopes to increase the number of Jewish settlers in the territories from the current level of 140,000.

"We have a right to settle anywhere we want in Gaza or in Judea and Samaria," said

David Bar-Ilan, Netanyahu's chief spokesman, using the biblical name for the territory on the West Bank of the Jordan River. "That right is inherent. It is part of the land of Israel."

Already, the settlement of Kiryat Sefer, where more than 7,000 ultra-orthodox Jews live just

over the West Bank line, has been given permission to construct 1,800 new apartments by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Groundbreaking has already begun, and big yellow bulldozers are at work on the hills overlooking the village where Amira was killed.

In the settlement of Immanuel, where 4,500 Israelis now live, the defense minister okayed 1,200 new homes, as well as a country club, a senior citizens' home and a religious study center. That decision is particularly significant because the settlement sits deep inside the West Bank, near the Palestinian city of Nablus—indicating that the government is throw-

ing its support behind those interior settlements as well as the ones close to the border of Israel. Another 2,000 or so new units scattered throughout the West Bank and Gaza are awaiting Mordechai's approval.

The government has also doubled the money going to settlers in its new budget, proposed restoring the subsidies and tax breaks that encourage settlement in the territories, and ended a freeze on the sale of 3,000 existing apartments in the settlements, imposed by the previous government.

"There's always demand for these houses," said David Sabag, a 37-year-old resident of Kiryat Sefer. "It's cheaper here, it's religious, and you can get three bedrooms for 70,000 dollars—for what would cost two and a half times that price in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem."

In his 1993 book, "A Place Among the Nations," Netanyahu described the West Bank as "the heart of the country," and argued that giving it back to the Palestinians would put Israel at the mercy of Arab terrorists. Although the major West Bank cities have been returned to the control of the Palestinian Authority, Netanyahu has made it clear that he does not want the entire territory returned for the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

Netanyahu, however, is under pressure from the United States, which has long opposed the expansion of Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories. As a result, Netanyahu has not done as much for the settlers as they would like. So far, his government has approved new units in existing settlements but has not approved the building of new settlements.

Of approximately 140,000 Jewish settlers living today among some 2 million Palestinian Arabs in modern, red-roofed settlements perched on the tops of the rocky hills of the West Bank and Gaza. Some live in tiny communities of just a few families, while others live in massive commuter settlements like Ma'ale Adumim, where about 20,000 Jews have houses and gardens only 10 minutes from Jerusalem.

Some settlements, like Uziel in the north, have become irreplaceable parts of the Israeli industrial economy; others, like Kfar Etzion to the south, are co-operatively run kibbutzim. Of more than 140 settlements, most are separated from Palestinian communities by deserts and barbed-wire fences; others, like Beit Hadasah in Hebron, are in the heart of Arab cities. ■

Female circumcision rouses much debate in Egypt

Human rights advocates are divided on the best way to combat the phenomenon. Some say Egypt's parliament should make female circumcision a criminal offense. Still others say the government should concentrate on promoting public awareness of the risks.

By John Lancaster
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

AL DABIYA, Egypt—Last month, the parents of 4-year-old Amira Hassan did what they thought was their duty as good Muslims: They hired the family physician to snip off part of her genitals.

When she died a few hours later, apparently as a result of complications from anesthesia, Mahmoud Hassan and his wife, Atiyat, accepted it as God's will. Now the only thing that puzzles them is why anyone thinks that the doctor, Ezzat Shehat, did anything wrong. "He is a good doctor," said Hassan, 27, a somber grocer with a neatly trimmed mustache. "They should let him return to work." The Health Ministry has suspended Shehat pending the outcome of the criminal investigation.

The death of the little girl—one of two who suffered the same fate at the hands of the same doctor on the same day—highlights the immense challenge faced by women's health advocates and some government officials in Egypt as they begin to confront the widely practiced ritual known as female circumcision.

Having ignored the issue for decades, public health authorities in Egypt this year were

stunned by a national survey showing that 97 percent of married Egyptian women between the ages of 15 and 49 had undergone the procedure.

Among women with daughters, 87 percent reported that at least one daughter had been circumcised or would be.

"They were all surprised," said Dara Carr, a researcher with Maryland-based Macro International Inc., which conducted the survey on behalf of the Egyptian government with funding from the US Agency for International Development. "I think the Egyptians felt that this was a dying custom and that this was much, much higher than they had expected."

Like other countries in Africa where female circumcision is commonplace, Egypt has come under growing international pressure to curb the practice. It has been linked to such potentially fatal health risks as bleeding, infection and complications relating to anesthesia—and, in later life, problems in childbirth and sexual relations. That pressure led, in July, to a decree by Health Minister Ismail Sallam barring health professionals from performing the operation.

But the decree has encountered stiff resistance from Islamic fundamentalists, including many within the

medical establishment, who defend the practice as necessary to protect women from the consequences of excessive sexual desire.

Judging from a visit to this rural village, hemmed in by sugar-cane fields on the west bank of the Nile 320 miles south of Cairo, the ban has yet to touch the lives of ordinary Egyptians. Many people said they had never heard of it. Others said they would ignore it. And local prosecutors acknowledged that they investigate circumcision cases with little vigor, if at all.

In the meantime, health workers say, girls as young as 3 continue to undergo painful and sometimes risky surgery at the hands of poorly trained midwives, village barbers and, in many cases, doctors who work for the same ministry that is claiming to combat the practice.

Human rights advocates are divided on the best way to combat the phenomenon. Some say Egypt's parliament should make female circumcision a criminal offense. Still others say the government should concentrate on promoting public awareness of the risks.

"People say that it is so deeply rooted that (making it a criminal offense) will just drive it underground," said Marie Assaad, who chairs a coalition

of Egyptian non-governmental organizations that is trying to combat the problem. "Many doctors still believe it is a very important protection against disease and immorality and that talking against it is a Western fad."

Among religious conservatives in Egypt, female circumcision is typically defended on the basis of sayings attributed to the prophet Muhammad. But others contend the practice has no basis in Islam. They note that it is unknown in ultraconservative Islamic countries such as Saudi Arabia and Iran, occurs widely within Egypt's Coptic Christian minority and may date to the time of the pharaohs, long before the advent of Islam.

In sub-Saharan Africa, female circumcision is a tribal custom that occurs across a broad spectrum of religions and cultures in more than 20 countries. The operation can range in severity from partial or full removal of the clitoris and surrounding tissue to a radical procedure in which the external genitals are cut away and the area closed with stitches, leaving only a small opening for urination and menstruation.

Egypt's government and official media largely ignored the subject until 1994, when

CNN broadcast footage of a screaming 10-year-old Egyptian girl undergoing the procedure at the hands of a Cairo barber.

After initially accusing the network of trying to embarrass Egypt in front of foreign guests then in Cairo for a UN conference on population, the government promised action. But it soon ran into opposition from the Gad Haq Ali Gad Haq, then Egypt's senior religious figure and the sheikh of Cairo's Al Azhar University, who warned that "girls who are not circumcised when young have a sharp temperament and bad habits."

Ali Fattah, health minister at the time, tried to finesse the issue by declaring that public hospitals would perform the operation only one day a week. When Egyptian women's groups complained, he banned the procedure in public hospitals, but not in private ones.

Sallam, the current health minister, has tried to close that loophole, announcing in July that henceforth no licensed health professional could perform the procedure. Sallam acknowledged in an interview, however, that the Health Ministry has suspended or revoked the licenses of doctors in just two circumcision cases, both of them involving deaths.

The government faces strong resistance from Egyptian doc-

tors such as Munir Mur, a British-trained professor of gynecology at Cairo's Ain Shams University with a thriving private practice in the upscale suburb of Heliopolis. Although Mur condemns the more extreme varieties of circumcision—he said his method removes a fold over the clitoris while leaving the clitoris intact—he has sued to overturn the ministry's ban on grounds that it is contrary both to Islam and sound medical practice.

"Most of our patients, mothers, aunts, sisters and so on have been doing this for years, and no one was complaining," Mur said in an interview.

Attitudes are even more entrenched in such rural villages as this warren of mud-brick houses and narrow alleys just a few miles from the five-star tourist palaces of Luxor on the opposite bank.

"Even if the law prohibits it, people will still do this operation," said Hoda Abdelmoneim, 29, a vivacious mother of three who teaches Arabic and religion at a high school in nearby Armat.

"Europe and the United States," she added, "need it more than we do. They wouldn't have AIDS and all these other problems." ■

Survivors provide chilling details of hijacked plane's crash

By John-Tbor Dahlburg
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

PARIS—One engine had already stopped for want of fuel when the pilot told passengers to brace for a crash landing. Below, the Indian Ocean, gleaming azure, rapidly grew closer. To many passengers, it seemed that the end was seconds away.

"We already knew that we were going to die," said N.B. Suni, a survivor from India.

Last Saturday, an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767 crashed into the sea off the Comoro Islands after it was commandeered by hijackers and forced to fly until its fuel tanks ran dry.

At least 72 of the 173 passengers and crew were killed, and 48 more were missing a day later and feared dead.

But 55 people survived and some gave harrowing accounts of ill-fated Flight ET 961, which was supposed to travel from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, across Africa to Abidjan, Ivory Coast, but was hijacked by a trio of Ethiopians who "wanted to make history" and fly to Australia.

"They were not high-tech hijackers," said Frank Huddle, 53, US consul general in Bombay, who was on board with his wife, Shania. "But they were terrorists, and they did not let the pilot communicate with us."

The Huddles, who planned to get off at the flight's first stop, Nairobi, for a game park holiday in Kenya, were seated in business class in the front of the aircraft.

"Ten minutes before we went down, the pilot said: 'We have lost one engine. We are running out of fuel. We are going to have a crash landing. Get ready,'" the US diplomat recalled.

"I thought I was dead when we hit the water," Huddle said.

Witnesses said the Boeing, like a skimming pebble, struck the sea four times—flipping over at least once—before breaking into three large sections about 100 yards off the northern shore of Grande Comore, the largest island in the Comoros chain, a former French colony.

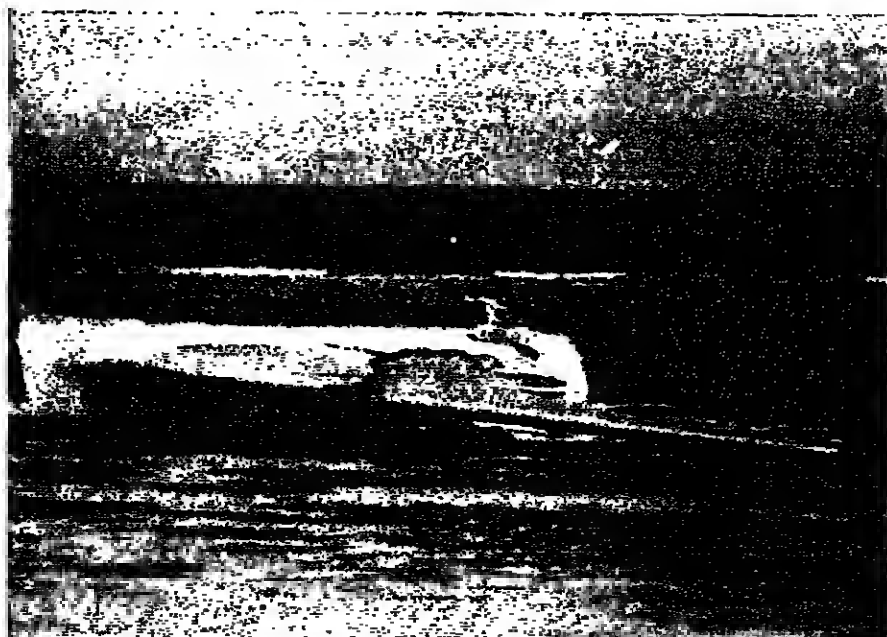
"The first bump was really gentle," Huddle said. "The second one was really hard. The third one was even harder, like a 70 mph auto accident. The last one was like an earthquake."

The Huddles managed to swim free of the plane's wreckage. Huddle suffered severe cuts on his legs and feet, and was evacuated to the French island territory of Reunion via a French military transport.

Surti said he battled his way through floating cadavers to live.

"Five or six times I went up and down in the water. I wanted very much to survive," he said. "I fought through all the bodies and everything, and grabbed a broken part of the plane. Slowly, slowly I came out."

Pilot Leul Abate, 42, suffered head injuries but survived. He told reporters from his hospital bed that there were three hijackers and that they wanted to go to Australia but that they made no other de-



mands.

"The hijackers wanted to make history," Abate said.

The trio forced their way into the cockpit 15 minutes after takeoff. One was wielding a small ax, apparently the one kept in the plane for emergency use. A second carried a small fire extinguisher,

also from the plane, and the third said he had a bomb in his hand, although the pilot said he couldn't see it. In his other hand, the man held a bottle of whiskey.

The terrorists beat up the co-pilot, Yonas Mekuria, 35, and tossed him into the main cabin. Mekuria, who also survived the crash, said that although Abate insist-

ed the plane was running out of fuel, the hijackers refused to let him land at the island's international airport, about five miles from the spot where the plane finally ditched.

It was the 17th time in six years that Ethiopians have been involved in a hijacking. Since the Communist regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam was overthrown in 1991 by partisans of the current prime minister, Meles Zenawi, Ethiopia has been plagued by terrorist acts, including hijackings by soldiers of the ousted government.

According to Bisrat Alemu, an Ethiopian passenger, the hijackers made an announcement in Amharic, Ethiopia's official language, soon after commandeering the jet.

"They said: 'We escaped from prison. We are against the government. We are hijacking the plane. We have an explosive. If anybody moves, we'll explode it.'"

Two of the hijackers survived the crash, were arrested and are being interrogated by Comoros police.

George Murray, chief pilot for the Comoros national airline, praised Abate for bringing the plane down near a shallow reef next to a resort hotel where there was plenty of help.

When the Boeing slammed into the sea, tourists sunbathing on the beach rushed to assist in the rescue. Divers toiled throughout the night to recover bodies, but officials said last Sunday they need at least

36 hours and heavy cutting equipment, underwater lighting and protective diving gear to recover remains still trapped in partially submerged wreckage.

By Sunday evening, the bodies of 72 victims had been retrieved from the water, Comoros officials said.

"My guess is they didn't really have any ... (weapons), but who knows?" Franklin P. Huddle, the US consul general in Bombay, later said from hospital on Reunion, a French island he and the other American survivors were flown to after the crash.

The hijacking began about half an hour after the plane took off, he said, when the hijackers began running down the aisle. The jetliner flew for another 2 1/2 hours before running out of fuel. At the end, Huddle said, several large passengers suggested attempting to overpower the hijackers, but by then the jet was descending fast. One of the hijackers struggled for the controls, Huddle said, adding that he believed the men intended as a last act to dive the plane into a resort hotel.

"It's interesting what goes through your mind when the plane goes down. At the last second, my wife suggested eating a peanut-butter sandwich because we might not eat for a while after we were rescued," he said. "I'm a former pilot so I know what it's like to ditch planes over water. I thought we were going to go down for the count." ■

Gorbachev

A noble leader with a hapless cause

Memoirs, by Mikhail Gorbachev (Doubleday, \$35, 769 pp.)

Reviewed by Dimitri K. Simes
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

Mikhail Gorbachev is Russia's invisible man. Yet just a decade ago, he was everywhere to be seen, widely regarded (especially by the West) as the Soviet Union's savior, still a true believer in the utopian ideals of Lenin. He steadfastly held that a pure, more just system, faithful to the socialist project of its Bolshevik founders, was somehow waiting to be reborn if only the deforming legacy of Stalin could be banished.

In a recent conversation with David Remnick, author of *Lenin's Tomb*, Gorbachev made a startling admission while in New York promoting *Memoirs*. "Cruelly," he said, "was the main problem with Lenin." Gorbachev added that "the main mistake of the Bolsheviks was that their violent emergency measures and methods were not temporary at all but were instituted for decades. The rather artificial model created by Marx, which was made even more utopian by what the Bolsheviks added to it—that model was imposed by force, and that model did violence to the human being, to the human conscience, to his beliefs, his initiative, his economic sense. It was 'dictated,' all of it!" More startling is that he has under other recent statements presenting the opposite view—that he doesn't fully believe the Leninist dream was a nightmare from the start. It is clear that Gorbachev cannot quite make up his mind.

This summer the former Soviet leader sought to revive his fortunes by running for Russian president. He received barely one half of 1 percent of the popular vote. Police escorts and reporters frequently outnumbered voters at campaign appearances. How is it possible that this same man—the unwitting liberator of the Soviet people from totalitarian rule, Nobel Peace Prize winner and darling of the Western world—has found himself so isolated, indeed

tortured, these were certainly welcome sentiments.

But as important as good intentions are, leaders—especially leaders of great nations undergoing historic transformation—are judged primarily by the results of their actions. And it is here, in the conditions of life in today's Russia, that one finds the origin of the discrepancy between Gorbachev's celebrity status abroad and his ignominious isolation at home. The former Soviet president complains that his rival, Boris Yeltsin, was essentially a destroyer, but the same is largely true of Gorbachev himself.

Where it was sufficient to display benign instincts and to let people make their own choices, Gorbachev was up to the job—and the world is a much better place for it. But inside the Soviet Union itself, he is judged by another standard by what replaced the Soviet order he destroyed. As the results of the June presidential election demonstrated, the consensus in Russia today is that Gorbachev was not much of an architect. Throughout his book, Gorbachev tries to respond to the numerous allegations that he was too weak and had no clear plan for the Soviet Union. His defense, however, only contributes to the impression that his critics were right on target.

On the central issue of why he did not break with the Communist Party much sooner—or at least let his colleagues that the time had come to go beyond half-measures, "to ease"—Gorbachev says that he was simply displaying necessary tactical flexibility to avoid being eaten alive by Party conservatives. If this were so, it is difficult to understand why, even today, Gorbachev fails to acknowledge that the party was essentially an instrument responsible for horrible terror and little that could

be called genuinely constructive.

Gorbachev never explains for what precisely the party deserves credit. Nor does he explain what he means by "the party." After all, from almost the very beginning, it was not the rank-and-file but the party elite, the so-called "nomenklatura," who acted and spoke in the party's name. While defending "the party," he simultaneously portrays the nomenklatura—the real party—as an obstacle to reform and a consistent opponent who let him down.

What Gorbachev seems to suffer from is a fundamental misunderstanding about the nature of the Soviet Communist Party and the regime over which it presided. His greatest miscalculation was to eliminate the coercive powers of the KGB, renounce the use of force and still expect his people to endorse "the socialist choice" and remain within the union that was, for so many Soviet nationalists, nothing short of a prison.

Ironically, Gorbachev's conservative opponents had a far better analytical understanding of the process he unleashed. They realized that what Gorbachev sought to destroy was not merely repressive constraints on his beloved Soviet system but its foundations, without which the edifice was bound to collapse.

The former Soviet president complains bitterly that he was betrayed by his closest associates, who organized an attempted coup d'état in August, 1991. Although he denies that he conspired with the plotters or provided any justification for their

actions, his own *Memoirs* suggest that the situation was somewhat more complex. On many occasions, Gorbachev admits that he was less than candid with other party leaders by intentionally playing down his reformist designs to avoid a premature confrontation. He also reveals that in July 1991 he secretly promised Yeltsin that he would replace his principal colleagues in the Soviet leadership, including the prime minister, the defense minister and the chairman of the KGB. That conversation, however, was monitored and became known to the intended victims. It is thus unclear why Gorbachev feels betrayed by people who decided to strike back when he himself was negotiating their roles out of existence.

On the important question of relations among the Soviet republics, Gorbachev held similar illusions. He was, again, convinced that persuasion and "appeals" would be sufficient to resolve the ethnic crises that signaled the beginning of the end of the Soviet empire. In some places, such as the Baltic republics, pre-emptive concessions certainly would have been the best means to avoiding a chain reaction. In

others, such as Transcaucasia and Central Asia (where blood had been spilled by disgruntled mobs), it would have been more appropriate to draw the line and demonstrate that the government was not a paper tiger. Gorbachev chose neither. In the end, he looked increasingly like a noble but hapless leader, much smaller than the great historical transformation he unleashed so courageously and yet so blindly.

This is not an easy book to read. Gorbachev begins with a complete transcript of his resignation address and later includes many pages likely to be of interest to only the most devoted reader, including detailed discussions of Central Committee plenary meetings, conversations with Bulgarian and Romanian leaders and descriptions of his wife Raisa's activities during their travels. Nevertheless, for those who want to understand how and why the Soviet Union came to an end, this basically honest and rather sad book is essential reading. ■

Simes is president of the Nixon Center for Peace and Freedom in Washington



Gorbachev (right) shakes hands with the owner of Harrods of London, Mr Mohammad Al Fayed

Cool side of Eastwood dominates off screen

CLINT EASTWOOD: A Biography, by Richard Schickel (Knopf, \$27.50, 560 pp.)

Reviewed by John Anderson
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

The short answer on Clint Eastwood? He's what women want, and men want to be. End of story. Luck and load. Bury your dead. Make my day.

The longer answer? A lot more complicated. And if you're thinking about Eastwood the image, rather than Eastwood the man, flat-out contradictory. He's not what women want, not according to any Cosmo poll I've ever read. Virtually mute, aggressively male, the last bastion of testosterone as a lethal weapon—he wouldn't be much fun to have around the house. Men? Who'd want the responsibility? Just holding that trademark squint for more than three seconds would finish off most of us.

What he is about is our intrinsically dysfunctional relationship with the movies: how we see what we want and don't necessarily want what we see; how the abstract qualities we admire as a nation—rugged individualism, non-conformity, single-mindedness—are

things we tend to fear and loathe when we encounter them in real life. One of Eastwood's great contributions to film acting is knowing this, and making us aware that he knows it. It's an impossible romance: We love him because he shows us what we can never be.

Almost always a box-office draw, he's been labeled a fascist (for "Dirty Harry") and won Oscars (for "Unforgiven"). He's a political conservative whose films were responsible for raising the international level of movie violence. He's the quintessentially "natural" actor whose abilities as both performer and director couldn't be more precise and studied. As many questions as Clint Eastwood poses about America, there are just as many to ask about Clint Eastwood the man.

There are answers, as well as

more questions, in Richard Schickel's *Clint Eastwood: A Biography*, which is both a critical and uncritical take on the actor, director, jazz buff and former mayor of Carmel, Calif. A biographical St. Bernard—because it's so big and friendly—*Clint Eastwood* should make its subject very happy, and for that alone could be considered a failure.

It does, however, cover all the bases—Clint's birth on 30 May, 1930, in San Francisco (Harry Callahan country), his family's several years of restless existence before his father, Clinton Sr., found well-paying work; his early days as a contract player at Universal-International and on and on through "Rawhide," the spaghetti westerns, "Dirty Harry" and "Play Misty for Me" (the last two appeared in the same year, 1971). His Academy Awards, American Film Institute honors, Lincoln Center tribute, "The Bridges of Madison County": It's all here.

When Schickel is doing what he does best, it can be exhilarating.

Almost always a box-office draw, he's been labeled a fascist (for "Dirty Harry") and won Oscars (for "Unforgiven"). He's a political conservative whose films were responsible for raising the international level of movie violence

At the same time, *Clint Eastwood* brings to mind those old Bugs Bunny cartoons, like ones with the two dogs in the derby hats, one a muscular hulk, the other a little guy who jumps around asking, "Su where we going, eh Duke?" We gonna catch some rabbits, Duke? Nobody's tough as you, Duke! Duke mutters, "Hrrgggpphhhh."

Eastwood is the big dog and has been for years. Even though he's in his mid-60s, he owns the American myth of movie masculinity. And speaking of Duke, there's a direct

line between Eastwood and John Wayne: when younger male stars are mentioned, Eastwood is the touchstone. The book repeats an oft-repeated anecdote about Eastwood and Kevin Costner—often cited as the new Gary Cooper—and their filming of "A Perfect World" (my personal favorite among Eastwood-directed movies). One day, Costner walks off the set in a huff. Eastwood continues to shoot, using the back of Costner's double. Costner, wondering why no one's come after him, returns and is told by his director that he's going to finish the film with him or without him. Costner cools his jets.

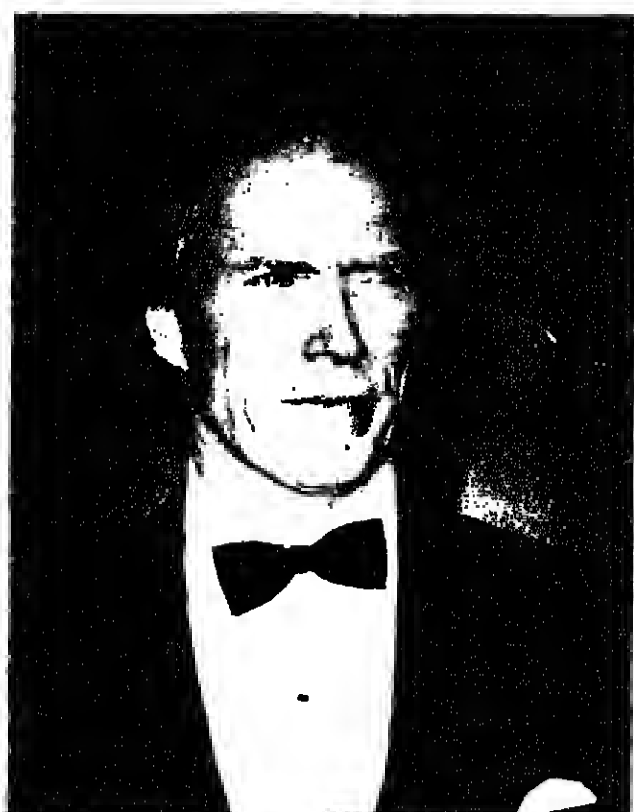
The unfortunate thing about this delightful story is that we only get Eastwood's version of it. From a purely journalistic standpoint it would be nice to hear Costner's version. But anyone else's would do. Any other version of Clint.

When Schickel is doing what he does best, it can be exhilarating.

(A longtime film critic for *Time* magazine, he has also written biographies of D.W. Griffith and Walt Disney.) His examination of what Eastwood and Sergio Leone were after in their genre-busting "A Fistful of Dollars"—the "spaghetti western" that established Eastwood as a film star—is substantial, insightful and right. When he extrapolates about Eastwood's reticence to admit he ever studied acting, it's illuminating. "The unsophisticated like to believe that movie stars are untutored; this helps sustain the fantasy that their fame and wealth are accidental, thus democratically available to all. Some sophisticated like to believe the same thing; it helps them to sustain their contempt for popular successes they believe to be unearned."

And when he links Eastwood's acting to his fascination with he-bop (which the director would one day celebrate in his Charlie Parker bio, "Bird"), he brings the free-roaming Eastwood as piano-playing proto-hipster and Prince of Cool.

"Clint is not surly or rude as an actor, but his cool, by far the most obvious quality of his work, his powerful desire—amounting almost to a moral-



Eastwood: The locution here

ity—not to woo the audience, his apparent indifference to their reactions, must be traced to the modern-jazz manner. So must his profound desire not to make what he does look easy to him, emotionally or intellectually. Verbose, perhaps, but not a bad riff.

Schickel is, however, an apologist for a man who probably doesn't need one, and who, presumably, would concur that that familiar grimace at the idea of having one. Separating Eastwood the actor from Eastwood the person, of course, isn't easy and may be impossible, given how long he's played the part. But Schickel—who admits in his prologue that he's been friends with Eastwood for almost 20 years—constantly amends and strokes and explains.

Eastwood, of course, doesn't talk about sex much. Real men don't. Women—such as bombshell Maureen Van Dusen, who was at Universal when Eastwood was—aren't so reluctant. "He was always straight and direct," Schickel quotes her as saying, "and always knew the most straight and direct path to my dressing room."

Schickel goes into spin-mode immediately. "Clint, naturally, is much more comfortable talking about the guys." Naturally.

When the author moves Eastwood's inability to make plans very far in advance, or essentially to commit himself without qualification, the biographer has an answer. "It is one of the ways he defines himself." Yes, and for other people—ex-wife Maggie Eastwood, perhaps, or palimony plaintiff Sondra Locke, or mother-of-his-child Frances Fisher—it's one of the ways they'd define self-indulgence and self-absorption. How Eastwood lives his life, of course, is little of anyone's business besides his own, but it ill behooves a biographer to be providing alibi for his subject.

What we have at the end of *Clint Eastwood* is a restatement of the Eastwood that Eastwood himself has created on screen: a taciturn hero, bound by a seething innerness and excused for all by the purity of his convictions. For all their friendship, Eastwood isn't particularly forthcoming with his biographer, and it falls to Schickel to create an Eastwood he can live with. At the end of the day, his actions are above and beyond the call of duty. ■

The reviewer is a *Newsday* film critic.

Noel Coward

The effervescent Englishman

Noel Coward: A Biography, by Philip Hoare (Simon & Schuster, \$30, 605 pp.); Noel Coward & Radclyffe Hall: Kindred Spirits, by Terry Castle (Columbia University Press, \$19.95, 160 pp.); My Life With Noel Coward, by Graham Payne with Barry Day (Appaloosa, \$16.95, paperback, 402 pp.)

Reviewed by Laurie Winer
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

At the age of 27, Noel Coward embarked on a world tour. But he arrived in Honolulu nervous and ill, with a 103-degree temperature. Leaving the ship, he was met by a couple he did not know but who were alerted to his condition by a mutual friend. The wealthy couple supplied Coward with a charming doctor and then promptly sent him off to recuperate at their country ranch, a tropical paradise that offered "the deep blue ocean, bright green lagoon, dazzling yellow sand, enormous coccol palms and scarlet hibiscus everywhere," as Coward described it.

Except for a brief and miserable Army stint in 1918, the adult Coward lived this kind of charmed life. His fame was his calling card; his quick, sometimes scalding wit a tonic to the rich and famous; his style copied by sophisticated people all across the Western world. The index in his 2 1/2-volume autobiography is a compendium of royalty, art and show business luminaries. In between writing plays and songs and performing them, Coward met everyone, traveled everywhere and enjoyed most of it very much.

Born into genteel poverty in 1899, Noel Coward created one of the great lives of the century. His legacy endures: Two new books about him have just been published, and a third, by Graham Payne, a longtime intimate, is reissued in paperback.

In the thicker of books about the life and work of Coward, Philip Hoare's *Noel Coward: A Biography* stands out as the most well-documented and objective. While an excellent and reliable reference to the who, what and where of Coward's life, however, the book fails to capture the effervescence of its subject.

Coward was an artist who expressed his best ideas in flippant repartee, making the serious biographer's task a difficult lot. Critic John Lahr pinned down Coward's magic in his invaluable book, "Coward: The Playwright" (1982). In his introduction, Lahr notes that when Coward's play "aspired to seriousness, the result was always sick. ... Only when Coward is frivolous does he become in any sense profound."

"You mustn't be serious, my dear," says Elvyn to his former but still adored wife Amanda in *Private Lives*, a virtual manifesto for Coward's philosophy of life. "It's just what they want. ... All the futile moralists who try to make life unbearable. Laugh at them. Be flippant." In that play, Coward puts the enemy argument into the mouth of Victor, Amanda's dull new husband, who opines, "I fail to see what humor there is in incessant trivial flippancy."

Coward loved fun and feared and hated boredom. His best jokes are beyond analysis. One such line comes from "Hay Fever." Two house guests are nibbling at breakfast before their hosts come in the room, when one turns to the other and says, "This haddock's disgusting. This line, noted Coward, never failed to get a laugh.

All of the details carefully accrued by

Hoare don't explain Coward's humor or his charm, nor do they add up to a deep understanding of a man who kept his sexual nature covert and whose ambition to create an unobtainable plateau of fame was one of the first successful such coups of the modern era. But Hoare has done a scholarly job, and he is correct in noting the enduring popularity of Coward's comedies with new generations as proof of his greatness.

And Coward's legacy can also be measured by his prominence in less commercial arenas. Witness a new book published by Columbia University Press this month, *Noel Coward & Radclyffe Hall: Kindred Spirits* by Terry Castle. An English professor at Stanford University, has chosen a curious task: to pair Coward, the most airy of writers, with Hall, among the most heavy-spirited. Both were homosexuals—Coward the more closeted, the one who moved easily in society and who produced a body of work filled with laughter. Hall dressed as a man, called herself "John" and wrote a coming-out book about an unloved lesbian (*The Well of Loneliness*) that caused a scandal when it was published in 1928.

Castle describes their difference very well: "Where he (Coward) is icy, she (Hall) seems driven; where she agonizes, he simply lifts an eyebrow. It's like comparing a glass of champagne to an aspersen of hites."

So, why this book? Castle is intent on proving a heretofore unknown intimacy between the two, a "cross-sex friendship" free from the mutual misandry and complaints seemingly endemic in heterosexual bonds. But she never gets near proving her questionable thesis. Certainly, the two writers had met each other and shared several friends. Castle also notes that Coward "evidently provided Hall with much-needed behind-the-scenes moral support" during the public furor about her book. But, characteristically, she offers no evidence of this.

The third book, *My Life With Noel Coward*, by the playwright's longtime lover Graham Payne, also uses Coward for validation, in this case to give meaning to a life lived happily in his shadow. First published in 1994, *My Life* proudly displays a fawning obeisance to *The Master*, unabated 14 years after his death in 1980.

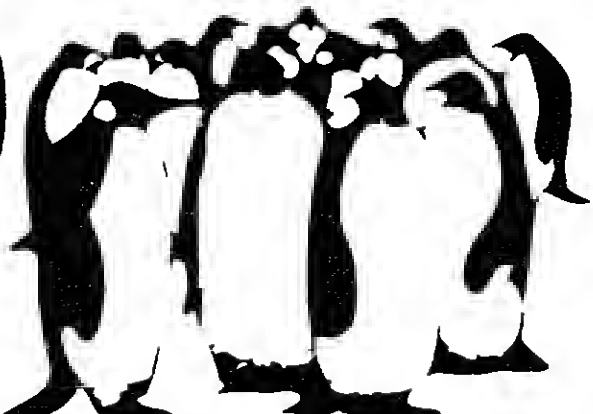
Payne makes no apology for living in the reflected glory of Coward, in life and after "Dad's" death. He begins by penning a letter to Coward in which he assures his former protector, "You're still the topic of conversation. They want to know all about you."

Payne's book raises inadvertent questions about Coward's need to be worshipped. However, any Coward fan who can get past this somewhat icky aspect of his character will find *My Life* to be full of charming theatrical anecdotes, delivered by him and to Coward, all written (with Barry Day) in an appropriately breezy style. When Coward visited the Algonquin Round Table, for instance, he took one look at the suited-up Edna Ferber and commented, "You look almost like a man." Returned Ferber: "So do you."

Ferber, obviously, understood Coward's economic recipe for humor, relayed here by Payne: "Wit," Coward once said, "is like caviar. It should be served in small, elegant portions and not sploshed around like marmalade." ■

Winer is the *Los Angeles Times'* theater critic.

AROUND TOWN

**\$10000 scholarship grant by Coca-Cola to AUB**

● The students of the American University of Beirut (AUB) will benefit from Coca-Cola's belief that the future is in the hands and minds of the young people. The company's policy is to promote quality education which is essential for the individual success and social progress.

At a ceremony that was held at the AUB, Dr Samir Maqadasi, the Vice President of the university gave a speech thanking Coca-Cola and accepted on behalf of the students a cheque for \$10000 from Coca-Cola's Regional Manager, Mr Philippe Georgiou.

**European Union Chamber Orchestra****Talented musicians re-enliven romantic pieces**

By Anca de Maio
Special to The Star

Last Sunday, an evening of enchanting romantic music was performed by the European Union Chamber Orchestra (EUCO). Held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor at the Al Hassan Auditorium of the University of Jordan, the concert featured musical masterpieces by Mozart, Haydn, Liszt and Boccherini. "We are the sort of orchestra that normally performs seventy concerts a year from the south of Southern America to the Middle East," says Mr Ambrose Miller, the general manager of the EUCO.

For the second time in Amman, the "globe-trotting musical ambassadors" of the European community proved once again that they perform "music for music's sake," and not "music for politics' sake."

The audience was led into the realm of harmony. It was an adventure into the European classical music of the 18th century, which is today called "chamber music." This is the kind of music that is composed for a small group of instruments (originally a string quartet) in the music rooms of the aristocrats' houses.

Since 1 September and up till 15 December 1996, the group would have performed in 18 countries around the world. As to Middle East, they gave concerts in the United Arab Emirates, and Beirut, Aleppo, Damascus and now, Amman. They are also performing in Cairo, Alexandria and Jerusalem.

The orchestra is the musical ambassador for the European Union according to the EU Commission President Mr Jacques Santer. It serves as a bridge to intensify cultural exchange between Europe and the Middle East.

The group serves two purposes. "On the one hand there is our cultural representation and top-level music-making that competes with the most prestigious national chamber orchestras, and on the other, there is the diplomatic aspect which

makes us a quasi-political orchestra," explains Mr Miller.

The EUCO brings together talented young European musicians from England, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Austria, Holland and Sweden. Each one has a good command of at least two European languages with English as the unifying language. The conductor, Mr Lavaré Skou Larsen, says that the number of musicians in the orchestra ranges between 50 and 60.

Mr Larsen, who teaches violin at the Mozarteum Music Academy in Salzburg (Austria), went on to say that "it is a great experience to work with the EUCO team and to discover the musicians' different cultural backgrounds and their specific reaction to my suggestions." Combining everything into an articulated whole is as challenging as rewarding, he adds.

The concert included Mozart's Symphony No. 1 in E flat major K 16 (written at the age of eight and expressing for the first time the four-note theme that will recurrently appear throughout his work up to his last symphony). There was also Haydn's Piano Concerto in D major Hob. XVIII:11 (where the classical principle of Sonata form imposes itself on the baroque principle of "solo" orchestra). Also the orchestra played Boccherini's Sinfonia in D minor op. 12 no 4, *La casa del Diavolo* (whose last movement is an example of the 18th century fashion of taking a theme from another composer and developing it in a different manner).

The *Angel & Devil* thematic selection staked on the emotional intensity of oppositions. Slow movements alternate with throbbing rhythms. The unusual adventurous structure of the second movement in C minor of Mozart's symphony counterpoints the even square-cut poised construction of Haydn's piano concerto.

The mysteriously whispered dialogue between the first violin and the other strings in Liszt's *Wagnerian Prayer to the Guardian Angels* finds an antithetic answer in Boccherini's dramatic expressiveness resulting from an enriched instrumental-



tion (two oboes and two horns are aided to the strings) and a romantically impetuous combination of trills and dotted notes. The jovial of minuet Mozart's ending presto, the playful *Andantino con moto*, the second movement of Boccherini's symphony and Haydn's sparkling final rondo contrast with the thrilling yet soothing esoteric *Angelus*.

Accompanying the group was Miss Rula Nabeel, the renowned Jordanian pianist who came from London, where she is currently based, to be the soloist of Haydn's concerto. Miss Nabeel had already performed with EUCO in Britain at the beginning of the year in the presence of Queen Noor. The pianist's technical virtuosity and refined sensitivity contributed to the professional excellence and emotional spontaneity of the EUCO performance.

**Lily Bandak
Photos taken from
a wheelchair**

By Anca de Maio
Special to The Star

IT WAS not until 1984, when she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis that the famous Jordanian photographer Lily Bandak stopped working. She had a successful career both in the US and Jordan. After years of inactivity she started to take photographs again thanks to a camera-mount that was especially designed and attached to her wheelchair. The results of the five-Arab country tour she made in 1995 are currently displayed in the Jordanian Construction Contractor's Association exhibition hall.

"From my wheelchair, I could take pictures with very little difficulty," says Bandak. "Through this exhibition I want to show that I can still produce good work just like any other normal person."

Bandak addresses the long forgotten issue of the disabled in the Arab world. She says that in this part of the world, handicapped persons do not enjoy the rights which are given to their counterparts in the West. The absence of ramps and elevators in Amman limit our freedom of movement," she adds.

She went on to say that "Arab families, with very few exceptions, feel ashamed of their disabled family members instead of helping them lead a normal life," she stresses.

The photo exhibition is part of the disabled-oriented activities Bandak is carrying out in the area. After her exhibition in Bahrain and now in Jordan she will have an exhibition in Lebanon.

"What I am planning to do next is a cultural exhibition on the Arab countries that will be revealed to the world at the Sydney Olympic games in the year 2000," she says. She is calling on all institutions including ministries of tourism in the Arab world to help her photograph the marvels of their countries' landscape.

"I don't belong to any specific artistic trend. Photography has a wider meaning: if I see something beautiful I photograph it. My collection brings together different types of photos from portraits and scenic to fashion and theatrical shots," she adds.

The artist's eclectic presentation is meant to prove that even from her wheelchair she is 'able' to do all kinds of photography. The feminine touch of Bandak's photos is an expression of a special interest in Arab fashion. "I like the images of any fashion, magazines like *Vogue*, my fashion pictures are artificial and the models are beautiful," she says.

Together with Widad Kassar, the owner of a marvelous collection of authentic old Arab costumes, I'm planning to do a book on Arab fashion and illustrate traditional dresses from different Arab villages.

The portraits displayed are at their best. The picture of an Egyptian woman stands out with elegance and simplicity. A portrait entitled *Palestinian Woman* is the only picture in the exhibition that was taken before 1984. "It is an image known by everybody in Jordan, it has been sold everywhere as a poster and I think it is still available downtown," she says.

The collection of landscape pictures is an example of a mastery of angles and color combinations. "I studied art for 12 years; artistic and photographic techniques are fused in my realistic photography. As I like to photograph people more than scenery, there is always some human presence in my landscapes," she states. Her *Countryside-Egypt* is remarkable for its subtle composition and ineffable temporality. The photos depicting Petra and the Amman Citadel turn historical monuments into a romantic burst of colors and movements. ■

Um El Kundum La Yazal**Heading back to
architectural heritage**

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

History unfolds right before your very eyes on the Airport Road. Jordanians don't need to travel abroad to experience the awesomeness of a bygone age. Perched on top of a hill overlooking a vast landscape of wheat, the old house, Um El Kundum (La Yazal), is an amalgam of beauty and serenity.

The old chapel lying in the heart of the house turns it into a religious retreat, where hermits must have once experienced the catharsis at its zenith.

As you approach the almost archaic grey structure, the external shape gives you a feeling of discomfort. The moment you enter, the scene becomes dazzling. The parlour, a large room is situated next to the chapel. You start imagining how could have such an overwhelmingly beautiful place been created.

The interior of the house, which dates

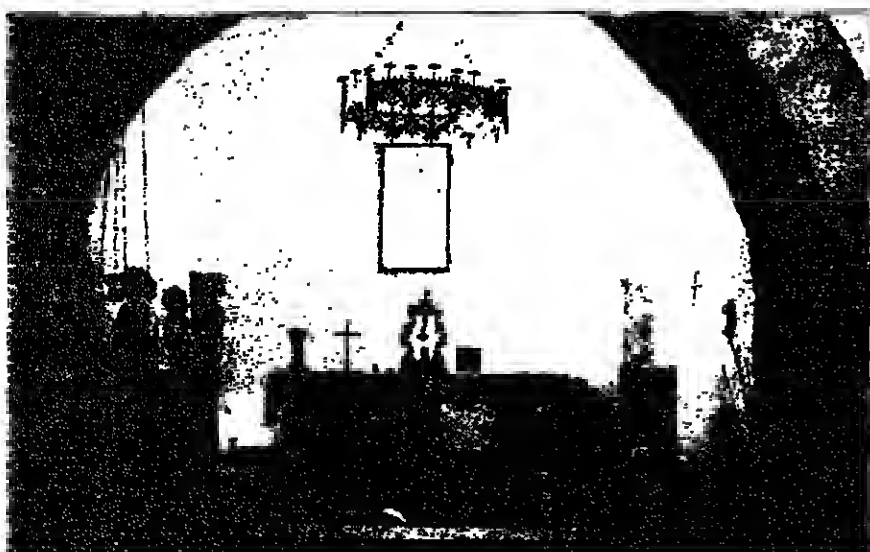
back to the last century, is built according to 19th century architectural designs. A stove in one of the small rooms on the first floor provides a cozy atmosphere. It is an ideal place for reading and contemplation. A marble fountain, placed in the middle of the first floor, is something rare in houses in Jordan. The two-floor mansion belongs to El Bisbarat family.

What adds to the romantic setting is the fact that the house is not fitted with electricity. Visitors can come, sit, chat and enjoy a place that is lit only by candles. It is a real escape from the noise and pollution of the city.

Such a setting prompted Mr Christian Doumit who is acting as a curator to turn the place into a venue for exhibitions, poetry reading and chamber music recitals. On display, every Friday, are lithographs, postcards, old maps, wooden boxes, paintings and books. Mr Doumit says that the idea is to turn the property into an open house for the Jordanian public and avoid commercialization.

"The house was used in the past by the Bisbarat family to administer their cultivated land," Mamdouh Bisbarat, the owner of the house, says. He adds that the name, Um El Kundum, is derived from the Arabic word meaning wheat. In the past, a major part of the house was used for storage.

He worked very hard to restore and preserve the house to keep alive a monument of the past. ■

**Yanni plays his magic at the Acropolis**

AMMAN (Star)—Jordan TV presented for its audience a night of musical enchantment last week. Celebrating the 61st birthday of His Majesty King Hussein, it presented a music concert by the Greek-born American composer and musician Yanni. The concert was broadcast in cooperation with the Video House in Amman, agents of the composer's concerts in the Middle East.

Yanni led his orchestra with dexterity at the Acropolis. He performed some of his romantic, emotionally charged tunes with passion. He was accompanied by two women opera singers.

Yanni is said to be one of the main figures in today's world of music. He is seeking to set a trend which goes far beyond the ordinary classics. This is an innovative goal always making Yanni in the forefront of modern music.



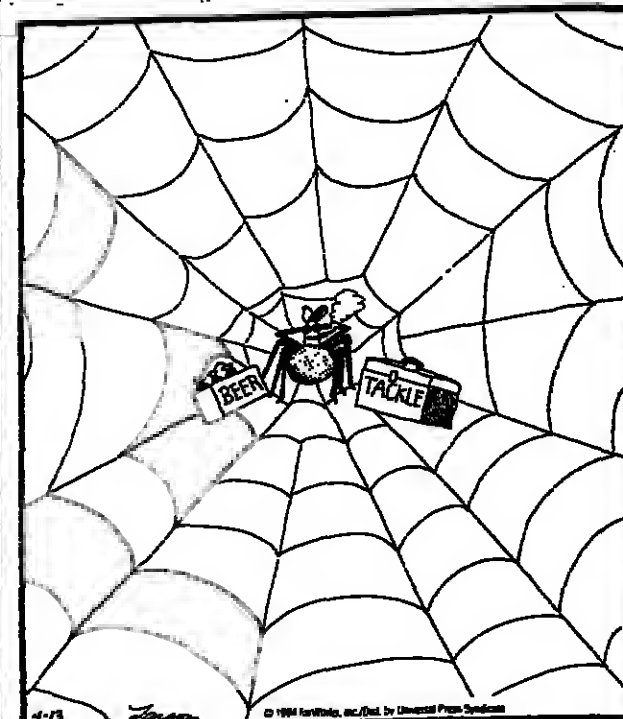
Part of the musician's creativity is his association with his motherland Greece. He turned this deep-rooted belonging—the place where he was born—into musical tunes. The result was an expressive piece titled *Nostalgia*, in which Yanni subconsciously recaptures moments of the past.

Yanni seeks to perform music that knows no boundary and that can be understood by every human being. He says that "what I try to do is convey my ideas about humanity and the similarities I see in people all over the world. There is a very deep connection among human beings. All we have to do is open our minds to it because it's there."

Yanni's concerts have been aired on international television stations delighting his fans all over the world. ■

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Insect hangouts



Mobsie slappan

AGENDA	
Exhibitions	Funn , continues till 10 December.
■ <i>Hon and Hammer</i> , at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, continues till 30 November.	■ <i>Graphics by Computer</i> by Ismail Shammout at Mustafa Shoman, continues till 24 December.
■ <i>Double Regards</i> by Basma Asfour, at the French Cultural Center, ends today.	■ <i>Plastic Art Week Activities</i> at the Royal Cultural Center, opens 2 December.
■ Exhibition and Sale of lithographs, old postcards and photographs on Jerusalem, Chinese paintings, at Um El Kundum, right off the Airport highway on the way to the Arabian Horse Club, first left at the top of the hill, Friday 29 November from 11 am till 5 pm. Tel: 664805.	■ <i>Images of The Arab World</i> by Lily Bandak at the Construction Contractors Association's exhibition hall, continues till 1 December.
■ Works by Marwan Kasab-Bachi at the Darat Al	Films
	■ <i>Fanfan</i> at the French Cultural Center, 2 December at 8:30 pm.

NOVEMBER 1996
A special section offering
fresh perspectives on
global issues prepared for
The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
ON FIVE CONTINENTS



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Urban planning begins at the ministry of agriculture

In the global economy, the only thing tying farmers to the soil is money

Farmers the world over are getting more economic information and more freedom to act on it. They have clearer yardsticks against which to measure their country's farm policies; if they don't like the answer, they set out for the cities. Agricultural policymakers, finding that their old models yield a crop of shanty-towns, are being forced to come up with blueprints that give the farmers their due—or risk urban chaos

By Cameron Brandt

IN A WOOLLY QUOTED article published two years ago by *The Atlantic Monthly*, US journalist Robert Kaplan stated that "the demographic reality of West Africa is a countryside draining into dense slums by the coast."

According to Kaplan, whose thesis provoked widespread controversy, "desertification and deforestation—also tied to overpopulation—drive more and more African peasants out of the countryside."

Similar problems, he argued, are surfacing in Asia and the Middle East.

The desertification and deforestation identified by Kaplan is not only a population issue—it is tied to the failure of agricultural policies that give farmers no incentive to invest in or husband the land. Such failures are nothing new; millions died of starvation in the Soviet Union and China when the new communist governments applied their collective blueprint for farming. But, as the end of the century approaches, the stakes for agricultural planners are changing.

In a world where information travels quickly, governments are ceding control to the free market and prices are a function of global trade, the wrong agricultural policies bring a swift response. Rather than starve or let governments dictate low prices to them (in effect taxing them to support industrial and urban goals), farmers are simply leaving the land for the cities. The numbers are staggering. China's army of rural migrant workers is, by some estimates, over 100 million strong.

Equally staggering is the speed with which today's farmers react to bad policies or lack of opportunity. In the past 20 years, cities ranging from Bombay to Lagos have seen their populations surge—Bombay attracted 1.6 million people from the countryside between 1986 and

1994—with new arrivals crowding into slummy-towns that preempt efforts to plan for orderly growth.

While raising agriculture's efficiency and moving people into industrial or service industries is a logical goal of development, when too many people leave the land too quickly agriculture suffers and urban areas simply cannot cope. Today's agricultural policymakers, therefore, are faced with the need to moderate the flow of people away from farming. At the same time, many of their traditional tools such as subsidies, centralized buying and regulations restricting movement into the city are being neutralized by the demands of a global economy—and by the ability of farmers to get information about prices, alternative markets and new opportunities.

Of the options open to policymakers in developing countries, three of the most effective are:

—Reform land ownership so that farmers have a vested interest in the land they farm, and have access to sufficient acreage to make a living. The government

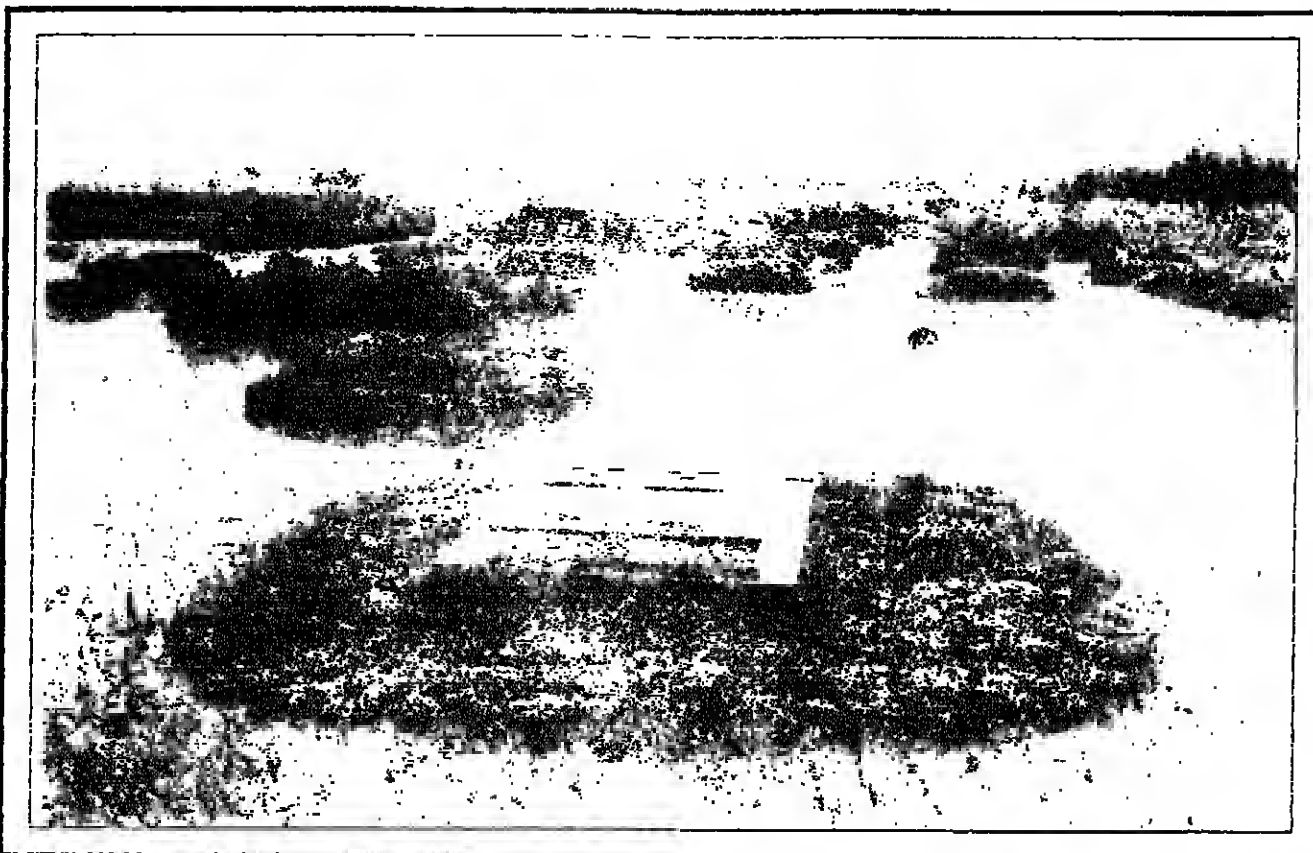
Rather than starve or let governments dictate low prices to them, farmers are simply leaving the land for the cities

of India's West Bengal State have embraced land reform as a way of slowing the influx into Calcutta, already home in 15 million people.

—Change tax policies. At the start of the 1980s, African countries taxed their farmers an estimated 70 percent more than the average for developing countries. As a result, agricultural growth dropped to under 0.6 percent a year as many farmers left the land for the cities. China, as part of its effort to slow the rural exodus, is implementing a ceiling on the taxes paid by individual farmers.

—Enforce environmental laws that promote sustainable agriculture, so that farmers are not driven off the land because of erosion, salinization and nutrient depletion. ☐

CAMERON BRANDT IS MANAGING EDITOR OF *The World Paper*.



Leaving the countryside to the dead: farmers and rural workers in many countries have a clearer idea of where their economic interests lie, and officials are hard pressed to stop them heading for already crowded cities

A flood of rural workers

China's cities paying for farmers' low profit margins

By Zhang Dan

THE EVENING NEWS, a newspaper serving the northern Chinese port city Tianjin, shocked its readers 18 months ago with a story that started, "Over 600,000 migrant rural laborers in Tianjin earn close to two billion yuan (about US\$240 million) a year."

The story went on to discuss the plight of the 100,000 jobless residents, arguing that 20 percent of the jobs taken by migrant workers be reserved for locals.

In 1996, while the Chinese government is struggling to keep the urban unemployment rate below 3.2 percent, tens of millions of jobs in factories, restaurants, shops and on construction sites in cities are taken by migrating rural laborers, who are at least 30 percent cheaper than city workers.

This is only part of the picture. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, over 80 million farmers, roughly the population of Germany, have left their villages to form a migratory work force. "Over-population in rural areas and lack of resources are the main causes for the emergence of a huge surplus of rural labor, which in turn has given rise to migrant laborers," says Chen Jiansheng, a state councilor.

Chen admits that low profit margins for agricultural production, especially growing grains, is another major factor in this migration.

For many years, the Chinese government's economic planners kept purchasing prices for grains low to ensure that it was affordable in the cities. In addition, farmers in many areas had to bear heavy—and largely illegal—financial burdens. For example, they had to "donate" money to build public toilets and pay for newspapers subscriptions for village committees. In 1993, a farmer in Jiangsu Province could earn only \$12 by growing rice on one mu (one-fifteenth of a hectare) of land—the same amount money that a garbage collector in Guangdong Province could make in five days.

Faced by these economics, some 30 million farmers have left their native provinces and flocked to major cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. The rest have found employment within their own provinces.

The flow of migrant laborers has formed a torrent of humanity rushing to every corner of east China. Behind it is a reservoir of 124 million surplus laborers in rural China.

According to a report by the Ministry of Agriculture, the country's arable land requires only 44 percent of the current total of 450 million rural laborers to work

West Bengali politicians work to make farming more attractive

'Barga' slows Calcutta's growth

By Deepa Das

WHEN ENGLISHMAN Job Charnock of the British East India Company dropped anchor by the banks of the Hooghly River in Eastern India in August 1668, he could scarcely have imagined that the hamlet of Kolikata would one day mushroom into one of the giant cities of the world.

Today, Calcutta is synonymous with urban poverty and squalor. The very mention of the city evokes images of the ultimate urban nightmare—teeming, malnourished and underclothed millions; sardine-packed trams and buses; pavements chock-a-block with the homeless and hawkers; water-logged streets in the monsoon and choking pollution in the hot summer.

The stereotype is further reinforced

by the fact that Calcutta is the ruling seat of a communist government—the Left Front government of West Bengal State. The city and its government, however, has recognized that its future depends on

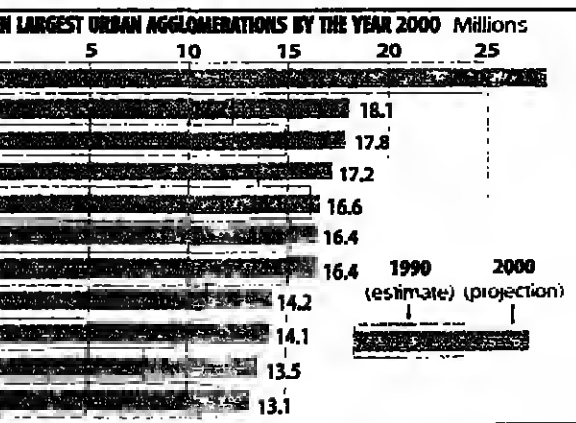
tackling the influx of people leaving the land for its streets and shanty towns. Calcutta faces an immense problem. The city attracts the poor not only from villages in the province, but also the hinterlands of other states in India and the neighboring countries of Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. But, unlike the other Indian

mega-city—Bombay—and others across the world, the constant influx into Calcutta has not yet turned the city hostile to rural immigrants.

never said no to people who have flocked here through the decades. Yes, its open-door policy has led to an aggravation of civic problems, but that's Calcutta for you.

Its population at 15 million, Calcutta is today the sixth-largest city in the world (Bombay is fifth). But, according to UN projections, while Calcutta's population will grow to 17.6 million in the year 2015, its rating will fall to 11 globally.

This stands in contrast to every other major city in South Asia, the region with the largest concentration of megacities in the developing world. Bombay is expected



As A.K. Ghosh, a member of India's National Environment Council, observes, "Calcutta is a city that has

► 'BARGA' PAGE 2

► PROFIT MARGINS PAGE 2

FARM POLICY FILLS CITIES

Old policies keep clearing the countryside

When it comes to land reform, Uruguayan farmers are voting with their feet

By Cristina Canoura

LIKE MANY of their Latin American counterparts, Uruguay's political class has proved allergic to land reform. As a result, a country whose economy is rooted in the rural sector has seen migration into the cities—and abroad—accelerate in recent years.

Because cattle and sheep require a lot of space but relatively little manpower to raise, agricultural production has not been greatly affected by the movement. Its impact has been greatest on the cities, especially Montevideo, that were already struggling to provide jobs and services for their residents before this recent influx.

Politicians wishing to turn a blind eye to events have been able to find a number of plausible grounds for inaction. For a start, there is nothing new about internal migration from rural areas to the cities. It is a century-old trend in Uruguay, though the pace of it is increasing. (Today, the country has the highest urbanization rate in South America—around 90 percent).

The impact of these migrations has also been muted by emigration. At least 300,000 Uruguayans migrated to other countries between 1963 and 1981, especially to Argentina, Australia, Canada, Scandinavia and the United States. While the majority came from urban backgrounds, many were people from the countryside who would otherwise have crowded into Uruguay's cities.

It is estimated that about 70,000 people left rural areas between 1975 and 1985, and that another 30,000 families migrated from rural areas between 1981 and 1986. Two thirds of these families worked plots of less than 20 hectares, which is a small farm by Uruguayan standards.

Land reform, which would have given many of these migrants an incentive to stay on the land, has been a factor in Uruguayan politics since the early 19th century. But in spite of all the rhetoric, no credible attempt to redistribute land ever came out of the legislative blueprints. A National Institute of Colonization (INC) was created in



Anyone at home? Uruguay's emphasis on farming cattle and sheep, allied to an unwillingness to embrace land reform, has resulted in a steady migration out of rural areas. At the same time, 80 percent of Uruguay's exports derive from agriculture

1948 to promote adequate exploitation of land and promote its subdivision, the latter mandate an effort to improve production and the quality of life of rural workers (and therefore avoid migrations).

However, in half a century the INC has only helped 4,800 families gain access to their own land. As tenants or owners, these families raise cattle, farm or plant trees in properties ranging from 1,000 to 25,000 hectares, depending on what they produce.

Since the mid 1980s, non governmental organizations like the Cooperative Center (CCU) have promoted development projects aimed at settling rural populations and benefiting women and young people. Non-conventional products are encouraged, including honey, aromatic herbs and fruits. However the lack of specific supportive

policies and credit lines, and the difficulties in reaching the market have frustrated or limited most of these initiatives.

One barometer of this lack of opportunities for rural residents is the country's school system.

The depopulation of rural areas has emptied many schools. Some of them literally lost all of their students. In 1993 the records of the education system registered 1,368 rural schools with 2,252 teachers and only 31,055 students. More than 800 of those schools had only one teacher and 112 had less than five students. By 1994 many of them were attended by only one student and in 1996 many of them will be closed.

In the absence of policies that would help them make a living off the land, rural residents have been drawn by the money generated from tourism

In the absence of policies that would help them make a living off the land, rural residents have been drawn by the money generated from tourism and smuggling.

and smuggling. In the 11 years between the 1985 and 1996 censuses, Uruguay's population grew only 7 percent, but its distribution changed sharply. It increased 35 percent in the department of Maldonado (from 94,000 to 127,000) where the seaside resort of Punta del Este offers jobs for construction workers, the food industry and tourist services. Nevertheless, the 12 percent unemployment rate in Maldonado is also one of the highest of the country.

Settling near the border of Argentina or Brazil has also been attractive for many migrants, as it allows them to smuggle different products to and from neighboring countries. This is an activity more profitable than rural work, but it is doomed to disappear with the advent of Mercosur, the single market agreement between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

CRISTINA CANOURA IS A FREE-LANCE JOURNALIST BASED IN MONTEVIDEO.

PROFIT MARGINS

Continued from page 1

on. Some 28 percent of the total are now working in rural industries. The rest have virtually nothing to do locally, forcing the more adventurous and the desperate to leave the land to make a living elsewhere.

When this massive exodus started in the mid-1980s, some Chinese economists hailed it as a good "historical trend" brought about by Deng Xiaoping's reform policies. Rural labor has contributed greatly to China's spectacular economic growth in the last decade.

Almost all workers in export-oriented processing factories in Guangdong are young men and women from poor, distant rural areas. Sun-darkened farmers are found at every construction site in the major cities of east China, building plush hotels, simple residential buildings, and freeways. And they make cities function, by sweeping streets, dredging sewers and transporting daily necessities.

Recent years have seen a reverse trend applauded by the government. Many rural laborers, with money and skills acquired in cities, have begun returning to their native villages to "enrich" their fellow villagers by starting businesses.

Zhai Jiping, one of the over 200,000 farmers who left their villages in the Guilin area of Guangxi eight years ago, returned to his land in 1993. By growing fruit and vegetables and selling them to Guangdong Province where he had worked for five years, he made a profit of over 200,000 yuan (US\$24,000) last year, and his business helped every villager earn an average of 500 yuan. "I know the market there, and I have friends over there to buy my fruit and vegetables," he says.

However, migrant laborers have also caused a lot of headaches for city governments, especially in terms of public security. In Shandong Province, there were even reports of migrant farmers being hired and armed by local criminals to rob state-owned gold mines.

Recently, it is the threat to the urban job markets that has caught the attention of decision makers.

To curb a further growth in the size of migrating labor, the government is trying to revise its economic and agricultural policies. So far, the focus is on finding jobs for them locally. "We cannot expect cities in developed areas to absorb all surplus rural laborers," Chen Junsheng says. "Our hope is still in rural areas."

China has some 100 million hectares of uncultivated land. Government officials predict that cultivation of the land will absorb a huge amount of surplus rural labor. "It will be a great feat if we can cultivate 3.3-6.6 million hectares of land within a decade," Chen says. "With proper policies allowing farmers to profit from reclamation, they will make it."

The government has also been formulating policies to make farming profitable. In 1995 the government raised purchasing prices for grains by nearly 20 percent. This partly explains the

country's record harvest of 450 million tons of grain that year following a decline for two successive years. The central government also decreed two years ago that, apart from an agricultural tax, a rural family's financial burden must not exceed 5 percent of its income.

Besides encouraging farmers to stay on their farms, the government has been promoting the development of rural industries to absorb surplus rural labor. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, by the end of 1995, more than 126 million farmers were working in township enterprises engaged mainly in manufacturing and farm produce processing.

Despite government efforts to control the flow of rural surplus labor, the problem is not likely to disappear any time soon. In fact, economists reckon that rural surplus labor will swell to 200 million by the end of the century. Many of them would join the ranks of job-hunting migrant farmers if they cannot find jobs locally. Job creation in rural China, therefore, is the key to solving the problem—a problem which may constitute the biggest challenge facing the Chinese government in years to come.

ZHANG DAN WRITES FOR CHINA FEATURES, A DIVISION OF THE BEIJING-BASED XINHUA NEWS AGENCY.

"BARGA"

Continued from page 1

The bulk of the work was finished a decade ago. Today, the figures speak for themselves. A 1991 study shows that whereas large landlords in India as a whole owned 55 percent of land, in West Bengal the figure was only 18 percent.

A direct result of the operation has been high agricultural growth. West Bengal's agriculture production ranks third in India after the prosperous Northern agricultural states of Punjab and Haryana, which are commonly called the breadbasket of India.

Another spin-off has been that the state government has ruled continuously since 1968—it is the longest-serving elected government in India—because of its solid base in the villages.

Crucially, the drive has helped reduce the pressure on Calcutta.

This is in stark contrast to Bombay, the capital of the wealthy Western Indian state of Maharashtra, which is ruled by a coalition of right-wing Hindu national-

ist parties. Leaders of these often xenophobic parties have sometimes threatened to expel refugees—mostly Muslim immigrants from Bangladesh who live in slums and temporary shanty-houses—calling them foreigners. Meanwhile, its population is soaring.

Says Anil Biswas, central committee member of the Left Front's main partner, the Communist Party of India

14—how to build sustainable cities into the next century.

But many policy planners have shied away from answering a basic question: should rural development be the focus of efforts to make cities more habitable? The process of urbanization, they argue, cannot be halted; cities are engines of growth.

A paper by the Habitat II Secretariat states that, "On the political side too, the roles and responsibilities of public and private actors have been redefined. There are few advocates nowadays of 'big government' or centralized state planning..."

Dealing with Africa, the paper is equally contemptuous of "the common belief, perpetuated by many international donor agencies, that if rural people were given the economic opportunities and services which turn them into migrants to cities in the first place the flow of people from villages to cities would be stifled." This simply does not happen, the writer contends.

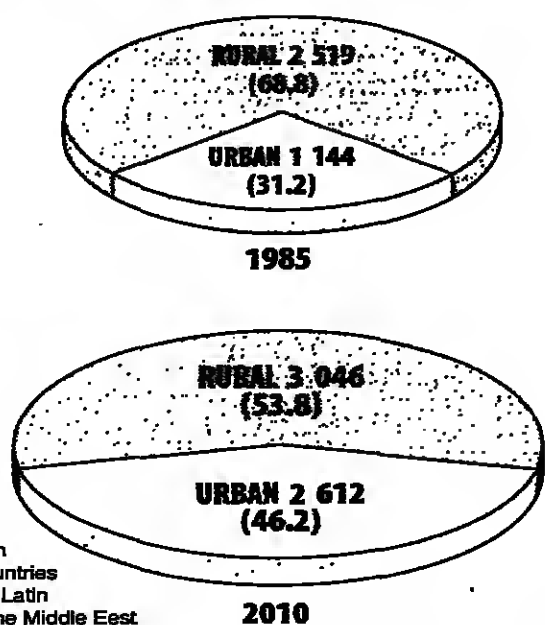
But West Bengal's politicians beg to differ.

Biswas says the UN and developed countries are trying to persuade the state sector to be made "powerless in the realm of developmental programs." Yet the experience West Bengal shows that government schemes like Operation Barga can make a difference.

DEEPA DAS IS A JOURNALIST LIVING IN CALCUTTA WHO WRITES FOR THE UK-BASED PANOS INSTITUTE.

URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES *

Millions (and percentage of population)



* Chart draws on data for 57 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

Source: FAO

(Marxist): "The fact that our land reforms have generated both incomes and assets in the countryside has had a positive effect. Those who would find themselves out of work seasonally would in the past come to Calcutta in search of a living. This is no longer the case."

"At the moment, we are trying to take the land reforms onto a new plane by focusing on the establishment of agro-based industries, improvement of irrigation systems and electrification of villages," he adds.

The Calcutta experience goes to the very heart of the aims of the Habitat II conference in Istanbul June 3-

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Shankar's International Children Competition 1997

CHILDREN ALL over the world are called upon to participate in Shankar's International Children Competition 1997 (SICC). The India-based competition opens the door for children to show their creativity in writing and drawing.

Participants in the competition must follow a number of rules. All children who have been born on or after 1 January 1981 can submit their works. No entry fees are required and children are free to choose the subject for their entries. Each entry should be certified by the parent or guardian as original and unaided work done in 1996.

Every entry should carry information in English about the name, nationality and full postal address of the participant. The last date for receipt of entries will be 31 December 1996.

A number of prizes are awaiting the winners in July 1997. These are:

- The President of India's Gold Medal for the best painting/drawing
- The Shankar's Award for the best written work
- 24 Jawaharal Nehru Memorial Gold Medals for the next best paintings/drawings/written work.
- About 400 silver Medals and 400 prizes
- Certificates of merit to deserving entries.

The Star's GULPE TV

Programs on JTV from 30 November - 6 December

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—Adventures of Mickey and Donald
2:30—Circus
3:00—French Programs
4:00—Gillette (sports)
4:30—Chris Cross
5:00—News Flash
5:02—Futures (Educational)
5:15—Blue Heelers
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Something Wilder
8:00—Gardens of the World (Doc)
8:30—Prism
9:10—Lois and Clark
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Best Seller
11:15—Classic Movie: *The Last Sunset*, starring: Rock Hudson and Kirk Douglas

SUNDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—Futures American Trails
2:30—You Bet Your Life
3:00—French Programs
4:00—World Echo (Doc)
4:30—The Famous Five
5:00—News Flash
5:02—Our World, Their World (Doc)
5:15—Search and Rescue
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
8:00—Auto Classics

MONDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—The Muppet Show
2:30—Dad's Army
3:00—French Programs
4:00—Nature's Inventions (Doc)
4:30—Hey Dad
5:00—News Flash
5:30—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Rosanne
8:00—Disaster Chronicles (Doc)
8:30—Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
9:10—The Lazarus Man
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Best Seller
11:15—The Knock (Police Drama)

TUESDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—Budgee (Cartoon)
2:30—Oscar's Orchestra
2:40—1 Love Lucy
3:00—French Programs
4:00—At The Zoo
4:30—Dog House
5:00—News Flash
5:02—Fun with Physics
5:15—Thw Road to Avonlea
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines

WEDNESDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—The Muppet Show
2:30—Circus
3:00—French Programs
4:00—Earth Revealed
4:30—Blizzard Island
5:00—News Flash
5:02—The Adventurers + Kelly
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—The Four Seasons
8:00—Super Stars of Action
8:30—Challenges
9:10—NBA
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Bugs (Drama)
11:15—Hart to Hart
12:00—Who's the Boss

THURSDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—Iris
2:30—Ovide and the Gang
2:35—Out of this World
3:00—Cavewoman Cross
3:30—Feature Film: *The Tender*, starring: John Travolta and Tito Larriva
5:00—News Flash
5:02—Continuation of Film
5:30—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Pacific Station
8:00—The American Chart Show
8:30—Material World
9:10—Kung Fu
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Feature Film: *She'll Take Romance*, starring: Linda Evans and Larry Ponder
11:15—Hart to Hart
12:00—Who's the Boss

FRIDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—Iris
2:30—See How They Grow
3:15—French Programs
4:00—The Crystal Maze



John Travolta in *The Tender*, Thursday at 3:30 pm

Amman cinemas

- Philadelphia I (Tel: 634149): *Twister*
- Philadelphia II (Tel: 634149): *Barb Wire*
- Plaza (Tel: 699238): *The Rock*
- Concord I (Tel: 677420): *Independence Day*
- Concord II (Tel: 677420): *Assassination (Arabic)*

5:00—News Flash
5:02—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Blossom
8:00—Discover Magazine (Doc)
8:30—VR.5, The Virtual Reality (science Fiction)
9:10—Hunter
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Feature Film
12:00—Family Matters

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI

3:00—Documentaire
La France aux 1000 villages
3:30—Emission jeunesse
Fête des bébés
6:00—Série
Jack
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Ziva

DIMANCHE

3:00—Emission jeunesse
Cajou
3:30—Divertissement
Week-ends spéciaux
6:00—Magazine
Fait pas rêver
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

LUNDI

3:00—Variétés
L'intégrale
"Stephane Eicher"
3:30—Documentaire
Travelling gourmet
6:00—Magazine
Cassiope
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Cinq sur cinq

MARDI

3:00—Destins animés
3:15—Magazine
Montagne

MERCREDI

3:00—Jeux
Pyramide
3:30—Série
6:00—Magazine
Ushuaia
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

JEUDI

3:00—Variétés
Emission spéciale à l'occasion de l'anniversaire du roi Hussein
5:30—Divertissement
"Pierre Perret"
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Atomes crochus
9:00—Le journal

VENREDI

3:00—Emission jeunesse
L'école des fans
5:30—Magazine
Envoyé spécial
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Allo la terre

SABEDI

3:00—Destins animés
3:15—Magazine
Montagne

Programs are subject to change by JTV

Celebs...



● Joan Collins found ex-hubby Anthony newly looking a bit down and out. But he hasn't fallen on hard times. He was just in costume for his title role in *Scrooge* based on Charles Dickens' character at London's Dominion Theater.

Video releases

"THE LAND BEFORE TIME IV: JOURNEY THROUGH THE MISTS" (MCA/Universal, \$19.98): Another made-for-video sequel to the animated classic about lovable young dinosaurs, this chapter takes Littlefoot and his prehistoric friends to another part of their world, where they try to find the reasons behind seemingly mystical phenomena that leave them baffled... and extremely curious, much to their potential detriment. ** (PG)

"HOMECOMING" (Hallmark, \$9.12): Oscar-winner Anne Bancroft stars in this made-for-cable drama as the cranky, estranged grandmother of four youngsters (Kimberlee Peterson, Trevor O'Brien, Hanna Hall and William Greenblatt) who have been abandoned by their mother. They find Bancroft's character the only person they can ask for help, after another relative (Bonnie Bedelia) has turned them away. *** (PG, AS, P)

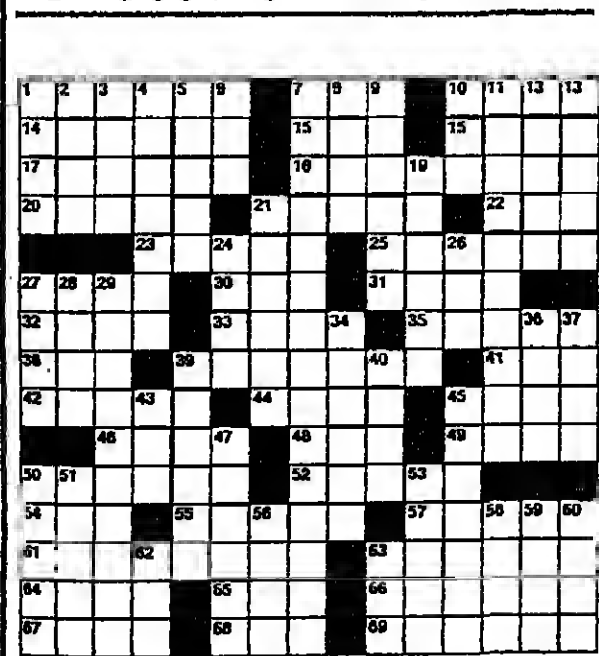
COMING SOON: "CHAIN REACTION" (Fox, Dec. 17): Keanu Reeves plays a student whose discovery of converting water into gas makes him a target; Morgan Freeman also stars. (PG-13)

"JOE'S APARTMENT" (Warner, Dec. 17): Expanded from a popular MTV short, this fantasy finds lively cockroaches sharing a young man's (Jerry O'Connell) dwelling. (PG-13)

"MATILDA" (Columbia/TriStar, Dec. 17): Mara Wilson plays a magical youngster who channels her energy against her oppressors; co-star Danny DeVito directed the film. (PG)

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS
- 1 Surrounded by
 - 7 "the season"
 - 10 Rainbow
 - 14 Frodo Baggins
 - 15 Boone
 - 16 Los Angeles school letters
 - 17 Vessel
 - 18 Willy, sort of
 - 19 Cornflour
 - 20 Melodious
 - 21 Fishing
 - 22 And not
 - 23 Wisconsin kin
 - 24 Spent time aimlessly
 - 27 Adoln
 - 28 Youth
 - 31 Place
 - 32 Saluna
 - 33 Furnishers
- DOWN
- 2 Kind of table
 - 3 Caste
 - 4 Kind of table
 - 5 Sinner
 - 6 Radar spot
 - 8 Certain
 - 9 central grains
 - 11 Spigot
 - 12 Of aircraft
 - 13 Avar
 - 14 "As You Like It" forest
 - 15 Tennis unit
 - 16 Cope
 - 17 Peachant
 - 18 Zero
 - 19 Overcharges
 - 20 Conductor
 - 21 Joe
 - 22 Lab burner
 - 23 Cubic meter
 - 24 Dissertations
 - 25 Hulahele
 - 26 Interrogatory
 - 27 Fruit drinks
 - 28 Master's tactic
 - 29 Comprehend
 - 30 Money earned
 - 31 European
 - 32 domestic
 - 33 Montreal
 - 34 Arise
 - 35 Big Apple's finest
 - 36 Kind of table
 - 37 Wonder
 - 38 Item of value
 - 39 Look after
 - 40 Some
 - 41 Europeans
 - 42 MIT word
 - 43 Yes
 - 44 Kind of table
 - 45 Wonder
 - 46 Item of value
 - 47 Look after
 - 48 Some
 - 49 Europeans
 - 50 MIT word
 - 51 Yes
 - 52 Kind of table
 - 53 Wonder
 - 54 Item of value
 - 55 Look after
 - 56 Some
 - 57 Europeans
 - 58 MIT word
 - 59 Yes
 - 60 Kind of table

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Higher education is enhanced, with the sun in philosophical Sagittarius.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Force yourself to work hard or there'll be trouble later. Schedule your big date, if you want to make a commitment.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). You'll do well with business dealings. You might even win with a calculated risk. Get into paperwork.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Disruptions at home lead to a better living environment. Consult your advisor so you can launch into intellectual research.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). You're very busy, but that's OK. You're learning a lot. Stay home as much as possible. You'll get more accomplished in a familiar setting.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Expenses are high. Get an extra job so you can have what you want. If you really want to learn something, get an attractive tutor to cutie and help.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be pressed to the limit, but you're up for the challenge. Speak up, or chaos will reign. Make time to go shopping and find the perfect thing.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Get organized. You'll have more options to consider later. If you don't have a schedule you could miss something important. Go shopping.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don't let your friends get you into a financial jam. Split expenses instead of paying for everybody. Concentrate on paperwork this evening due.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Take good notes. You'll lose points if you miss a seemingly minor detail. Work with friends. If each of you takes on part of the project, you'll do a better job.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Study a foreign language. You'll be able to put it to good use. Something that doesn't make sense could be an error — get clarification.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Use money you've saved to finance a group endeavor. A friendship with a foreigner flourishes.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). The schedule's changing, so take careful notes. If you can jump through all the bureaucratic hoops, you could qualify for a loan or grant.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Learn to do the job perfectly this year and you'll never have to worry about it again.

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Bridge

Use All Your Weapons
By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 8 6
♥ K J 7 3
♦ A J
♣ 8 6 4

WEST EAST
♠ 4 ♠ 5 2
♥ 9 4 ♥ Q 10 8 5
♦ K Q 10 8 6 5 ♦ 7 4 3 2
♣ A J 7 2 ♣ Q 10 9

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 9 7 3
♥ A 6 2
♦ 9
♣ K 5 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♣
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣
It is not good enough just to formulate a plan in an effort to make your contract. Think twice in case there is a way to improve on it.

The auction was straightforward. Once spades were raised, South had more than enough to proceed to game, especially since the king of clubs rated to be worth an ace because of partner's one-club opening.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Get organized. You'll have more options to consider later. If you don't have a schedule you could miss something important. Go shopping.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don't let your friends get you into a financial jam. Split expenses instead of paying for everybody. Concentrate on paperwork this evening due.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Take good notes. You'll lose points if you miss a seemingly minor detail. Work with friends. If each of you takes on part of the project, you'll do a better job.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Study a foreign language. You'll be able to put it to good use. Something that doesn't make sense could be an error — get clarification.

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Modernity vs heritage in *The Old Man*

EVER SINCE Jordanian soap operas ceased to appear on Gulf TV stations, Jordanian actors shifted their focus on theater. They lost the Gulf as a money-making outlet, yet they helped develop the local theater scene.

One of the Jordanian directors who contributed to theater in Jordan is Mr. Mathar Yaseen. A director of about 60 works, he is now working on a new play entitled *The Old Man*. It will be shown at the beginning of next month.

Mr. Muhammad Saleh, the author, says that the play deals with modernity as opposed to heritage. It presents an old man who believes in the values of his age. The antagonist is his daughter in law. "I let each character defend his stand in his own way," says Saleh.

Acting as the daughter in law is Ragheha Khatoun while Yaseen will take the role of the old man. ■



Yaseen

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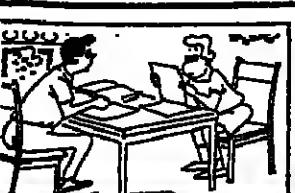
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FOR WHAT YOU
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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

SELON

Le processus

d'application des lois et des ordonnances royales en ce qui concerne le développement des droits de l'Homme et des libertés publiques est lent en Jordanie parce que les responsabilités politiques et les gouvernements qui se succèdent ne cessent de censurer le roi.

Au cours des sept dernières années, depuis l'introduction du processus démocratique en 1989, sa majesté le roi Hussein a donné des directives et a pris des initiatives dans le domaine des droits de l'Homme. Mais celles-ci n'ont pas été, pour la plupart, prises au sérieux.

Rappelons que le Centre de la démocratie et des droits de l'Homme a été créé par un décret royal en 1993. Un centre à qui l'on avait alors fixé des objectifs ambitieux. L'un d'entre eux était d'assurer le respect des droits de l'Homme, de développer la vie démocratique et d'enquêter sur les violations des lois concernant les libertés publiques.

Quatre ans après, des responsables politiques estiment que ce centre ne devrait pas être chargé d'enquêter sur ces violations et ne devrait pas surveiller le respect des droits de l'Homme dans ce pays. Il ne devrait, selon les modifications suggérées par le gouvernement, qu'observer et relever les éventuelles violations.

Le centre n'est pas le seul exemple. Le roi est lui-même parfois censuré par les quotidiens proches du régime, et ce malgré tous les efforts pour rendre la presse plus responsable et plus critique. Les quotidiens continuent eux-mêmes de pratiquer l'autocensure dans tous les domaines.

Ces rigidités se retrouvent à d'autres niveaux. Ainsi, le cas des femmes jordanien mariées à des étrangers est significatif. Le roi Hussein a explicitement donné des instructions à plusieurs reprises à des responsables jordanien pour résoudre le problème de la nationalité des enfants nés de mères jordanien mariées à des étrangers. Mais aujourd'hui, la loi empêchant une femme de transmettre sa nationalité à ses enfants reste en vigueur dans le royaume.

Ces différents exemples soulignent un des problèmes importants que le pays doit régler: la séparation des pouvoirs, et en particulier la séparation entre l'exécutif et le législatif. Le roi lui-même évoque lors de son discours d'ouverture de la nouvelle session parlementaire, en insistant sur l'importance de franchir un pas dans ce domaine pour obtenir une séparation concrète.

On ne sait pas aujourd'hui quand cette directive sera appliquée. Ce qui est certain, c'est que le jeu démocratique et des droits de l'Homme en Jordanie ne seront jamais pleinement respectés tant que les jordanien, et les dirigeants politiques en particulier, prétendent être plus royalistes que le roi.

Sa'eda Kilani

Le Jourdain, on y revient
Tous les jeudis dans le Star
645380

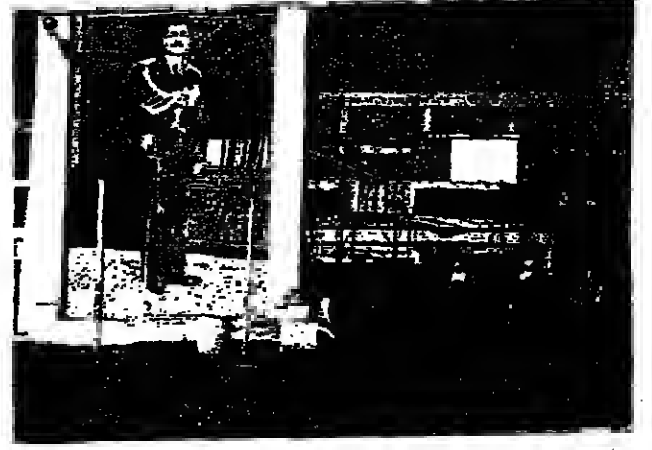
L'Irak accepte la résolution 986

Après l'annonce lundi par Bagdad de l'acceptation des conditions posées par l'Onu à la mise en œuvre de la formule pétrole contre nourriture, l'Irak devrait pouvoir reprendre des exportations limitées de pétrole dans les semaines à venir.

Approuvé en principe par l'Irak au début de l'année, le principe de l'échange «pétrole contre nourriture» a fait l'objet d'un accord avec les Nations-Unies le 20 mai. Mais les modalités techniques étaient en discussion depuis, les États-Unis rejetant les exigences que l'Irak a finalement abandonnées lundi.

Cette résolution 986 autorise les États à permettre l'importation de pétrole et de produits pétroliers, le volume des importations devant être tel que les recettes ne dépassent pas un milliard de dollars par période de 90 jours. Chaque achat doit être approuvé par le Comité des sanctions de l'Onu, et le montant intégral doit être versé sur un compte séquestre ouvert par le secrétaire général de l'Onu.

Les fonds déposés sur ce compte devront répondre aux besoins humanitaires de la population irakienne, notamment en médicaments, fournitures médicales, denrées alimentaires et produits de première nécessité, à condition que chaque demande soit effectuée à la demande du gouvernement irakien et que l'Irak garantisse effectivement la distribution équitable des marchandises sur la base d'un plan soumis au secrétaire général. Cette résolution doit entrer en vigueur pour une période initiale de 180 jours.



Irak

Pendant l'horreur, le tourisme continue

Pour certains amoureux de l'histoire et des vieilles pierres, l'Irak est une destination possible grâce à un circuit touristique évitant soigneusement de montrer les souffrances de la population irakienne et ne s'intéressant qu'au passé glorieux de ce pays.

Malgré l'embargo, malgré les récents affrontements au Kurdistan et les représailles des États-Unis, l'Irak reste une destination touristique pour quelques rares voyageurs férus d'histoire et pour qui l'Irak reste avant tout l'un des berceaux de la civilisation.

«Nous avons vécu dans le passé, l'Irak, c'était en plus», résume Françoise Noury, une française retraitée de l'enseignement de passage à Amman après deux semaines passées en Irak. «Je désirais visiter tous les pays de la route de la soie. Après l'Irak, il ne me reste plus qu'à me rendre en Afghanistan pour boucler ce circuit».

Muette Jalkh, de Iraqi Airways, qui accompagnait ce groupe, avoue son admiration pour l'entêtement de ces touristes dont plusieurs ont largement dépassé l'âge de la retraite. «Il faut un certain courage pour visiter l'Irak aujourd'hui», en raison de l'embargo. Il faut d'abord se rendre en bus d'Amman à Bagdad, soit près de 16 heures de route dans le désert. Ensuite, on n'est pas sûr de trouver sur place les soins médicaux nécessaires, en cas de problème de santé.

Renée Saupez, 82 ans, professeure agrégée d'allemand, s'indigne quand on s'étonne de son âge. «Nous vivons sur des pontifs. On estime que les petits et les vieux ne peuvent rien faire comme les autres». L'Irak n'était que son cinquième voyage de l'année.

Quelques rares agences de voyages européennes à voca-

tion culturelle ont remis l'Irak à leur catalogue après la guerre du Golfe. Françoise Noury choisit toujours la formule de l'agence culturelle pour ses voyages. «De cette manière, je suis sûre d'être accompagnée par un conférencier de haut niveau».

Pour ce voyage en Irak, c'est Remo Mugnoli, professeur d'assyriologie à l'université de Provence qui guidait le groupe. «Nous avons visité le Sud du pays», explique-t-il. «Et en particulier Ourouk, la fabuleuse cité du roi Gilgamesh. C'est là que les Sumériens ont inventé l'écriture voilà plus de 5000 ans».

Le moment idéal pour visiter l'Irak

«Pour tous les amoureux de vieilles pierres, c'est vraiment le moment idéal pour visiter l'Irak», enthousiasme Gilles Guignard, un jeune Suisse de 22 ans, benjamin du groupe. «Nous étions seuls sur les sites et n'avons rencontré qu'un seul autre groupe, des Japonais».

Bien que le but du voyage ait été avant tout culturel, le groupe a tout de même fini par être confronté à la réalité quotidienne des Irakiens.

«Nous avons rencontré des enfants qui souffraient d'être mal soignés, faute de médica-



Voilà l'image de l'Irak que découvrent et ramènent les rares touristes qui entreprennent aujourd'hui ce voyage.

ments, et dont la vie était en danger», raconte Remo Mugnoli. «Un chirurgien faisait partie de notre groupe. Il a pu en soigner quelques uns grâce aux médicaments qu'il avait dans ses bagages».

«En ce qui concerne la nourriture, on trouve de tout. Les marchés sont bien achalandés, mais à des prix exorbitants pour la population», ajoute Gilles Guignard. «Par exemple, un kilo de tomates coûte un demi dollar alors que le salaire mensuel moyen d'un Irakien ne dépasse pas cinq dollars».

Les contacts avec la population sont cependant restés limités. «Les Irakiens que nous avons rencontrés ont été char-

manis et accueillants. Mais nous avons évité d'aborder la situation que connaît actuellement l'Irak», avoue Remo Mugnoli.

Il est vrai que le groupe était encadré par deux guides irakiens pendant toute la durée du séjour. «Ces guides étaient là pour notre protection. Mais leur présence nous a gênés dans nos contacts avec la population», reconnaît Gilles Guignard. «Chaque fois que nous engageons une conversation ils voulaient savoir de quoi nous parlions et nous nous sommes sentis restreints dans notre liberté».

Claudine Assad

Culture

Cinéma français et Malraux

Le programme du Centre culturel français d'Amman s'annonce chargé avec la semaine du cinéma français et le début du «mois Malraux» rendant hommage à l'écrivain et homme politique français André Malraux.

Le cinéma français va envahir les salles du Philadelphie l'espace d'une semaine. Cinq films seront présentés à partir de lundi dans le cadre de La semaine du cinéma français organisée par le centre culturel français.

Quatre comédies françaises récentes, dont Les visiteurs, le plus gros succès français en termes d'entrées, et un film auto-biographique, Le nouveau monde, retraçant l'adolescence du réalisateur Alain Corneau et sa découverte en France du jazz et de l'Amérique après la deuxième guerre mondiale.

Les films seront projetés au cinéma Philadelphie, dans une salle qui vient d'être inaugurée, à l'exception des Visiteurs qui investiront la grande salle. Chaque séance coûtera un dinar. Tous les films seront sous-titrés en arabe, et certains aussi en anglais.

abrite notamment les cendres de Victor Hugo, Emile Zola, Jean Jaurès, Pierre et Marie Curie, Jean-Jacques Rousseau,...

En faisant entrer André Malraux au panthéon, le président français Jacques Chirac a rendu à la fois hommage à l'écrivain engagé et l'homme politique. Né en 1901, André Malraux part en Asie à 20 ans à la découverte d'un temple khmer rouge. Une expédition qui tourne mal pour le jeune explorateur accusé de vol d'antiquités. Il garde de ce voyage une passion pour l'Asie qui occupe une place importante dans ses premiers romans, «Les conquérants», «La voie royale», «La condition humaine». Militant activement contre le fascisme dans les années 30, André Malraux décide de s'engager aux côtés des Ré-

publicains espagnols contre Franco quand éclate la guerre d'Espagne en 1936. Il écrira un livre, puis un film, de cet épisode de sa vie, «L'espoir».

Résistant pendant la seconde guerre mondiale, il sera appelé au gouvernement en 1958 par le général de Gaulle qui lui confie le portefeuille des Affaires culturelles. Une fonction qu'il avait amené lui-même à prononcer en 1964 un discours pour l'entrée au Panthéon de la dépouille du chef de la Résistance Jean Moulin.

Quatre émissions et une exposition seront proposées au Centre culturel français ce mois-ci pour retracer l'itinéraire d'André Malraux. «L'espoir» sera lui projeté le 20 décembre au cinéma Philadelphie.

Olivier Bras

PROGRAMME

La semaine du cinéma français

A partir de 20h30 au cinéma Philadelphie (634 144)

Lundi 2 décembre
Fanfan d'Alexandre Jardin (1993).
Mardi 3 décembre
Le nouveau monde d'Alain Corneau (1994).
Mercredi 4 décembre
Vieille canaille de Gérard Oury (1992).
Jeudi 5 décembre
Les visiteurs d'Alain Tisler (1993).
Vendredi 6 décembre
La soif de l'or de Gérard Oury (1993).

Le mois André Malraux

Le 2 décembre à 20h30 au Centre culturel français, diffusion de l'émission «Les métamorphoses du regard». Une exposition de 18 panneaux illustrant la vie de Malraux accompagnera ces images.

Archéologie

Deux septennats d'histoire sur le site de Jérash

Directeur à Amman de l'Institut français d'archéologie du Proche-Orient (Ifapo), Jacques Seigne a travaillé pendant quatorze ans sur le site gréco-romain de Jérash. Parti depuis maintenant quelques semaines, il offre aux lecteurs du Star une dernière visite guidée du site et présente les récents travaux réalisés par l'Ifapo à Jérash.

Architecte et

conseiller, Jacques Seigne est un homme célèbre dans le milieu archéologique et touristique jordanien. Il a entre autre entrepris avec l'équipe de l'Ifapo la restauration, ou plutôt la reconstruction du portail Sud de l'antique ville de Gerasa. C'est un arc monumental à triples baies qui a été originellement construit par les Géroasiens au pied du sanctuaire de Zeus Olympien, pour l'Empereur Hadrien pendant son séjour hivernal, entre 129 et 130 après Jésus-Christ, à Jérash. Cet arc était l'entrée méridionale de la ville, incorporée au IVème siècle à ses remparts.

Mais à partir du VIème

siècle, sous l'effet des tremblements de terre, ses superstructures s'effondrèrent. Un important séisme transforma en 749 Jérash en un vaste champ de ruines.

Dix siècles plus tard, seuls quelques blocs dépassant du sol indiquaient aux rares visiteurs l'emplacement de l'arc.

Entre 1931-1933, deux archéologues américains, MM. Fischer et Dutwiler ont partiellement dégagé ce monument lors de recherches entreprises à Jérash par l'université de Yale et l'American school of oriental research.

Entre 1978 et 1980, la porte Sud est dégagée. Un chantier archéologique qui a eu lieu

suite au déclenchement de grands travaux d'aménagement touristique du site effectués au bulldozer, laissant la plupart des blocs empilés par terre.

A partir de 1982, et dans le cadre du Jérash International Project, l'étude de la porte sud a été confiée à l'équipe de l'Ifapo. Après une étude complémentaire de faisabilité matérielle, les travaux de restauration ont débuté en mars 1988. La proportion de blocs conservés par rapport à celle de blocs manquants était élevée.

D'autres problèmes se posaient: la fissuration de nombreux blocs lors de la chute de parties hautes de l'édifice. Mais les fondations étaient en bon état.

L'équipe de Jacques Seigne a dû démonter et reconstruire les murs en corrigeant les dévers là où cela était nécessaire. Elle a recollé les blocs cassés avant de les remettre en place, utilisant, quand cela s'imposait, de nouvelles pierres. Et elle a ensuite reconstruit les deux pavillons latéraux jusqu'au niveau des niches surmontant les arcs des baies latérales pour le passage central. Les travaux ont été achevés en juin 1990.

En ce moment, l'Ifapo est en train de dégager la vraie voie romaine qui menait vers cette grande porte. La montée qui a jusqu'à présent servi d'entrée au site est constituée sur d'anciennes boutiques romaines.

Respecter le site

L'équipe de l'Ifapo a récemment terminé l'aménagement du cryptoportique qui longe la voie romaine, juste sous le temple de Zeus. Ce cryptoportique est un sous-bassement artificiel qui avait pour but de tenir la terrasse du temple. Une inscription permet de la dater en l'an 27/28 de notre ère. Le nom de l'architecte y figure aussi, Diosdorus fils de Zebedas et surtout

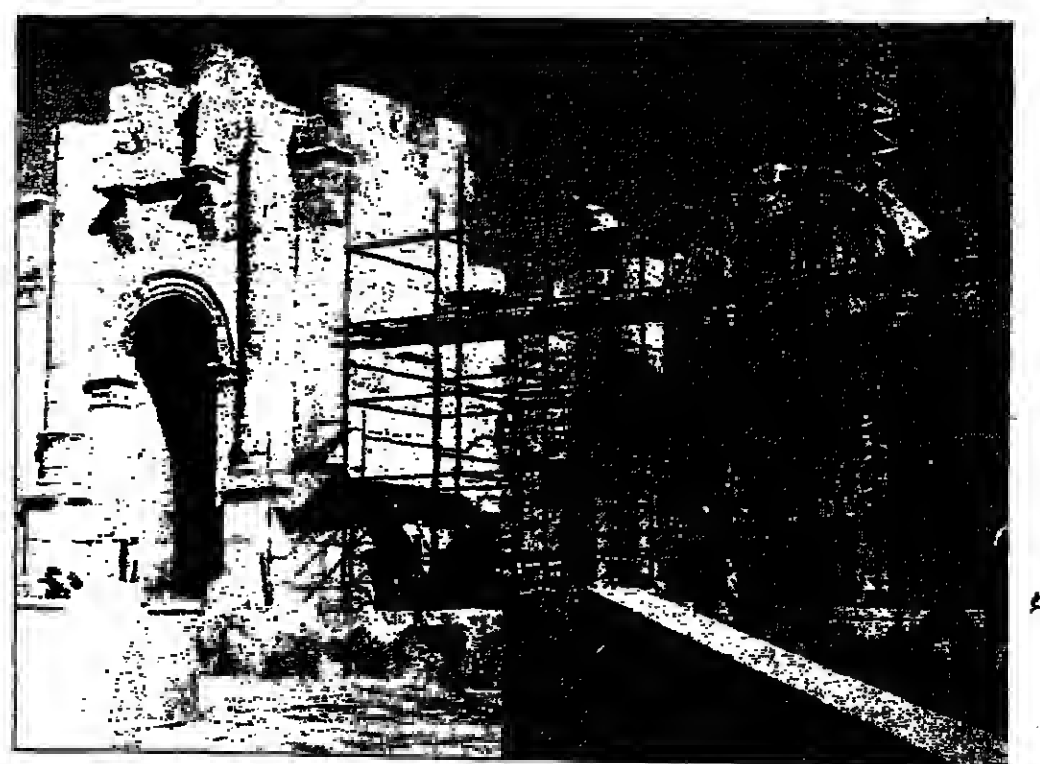
son origine: cet architecte antique était de Jérash. Le fait qu'il ait laissé une telle inscription est d'ailleurs très étonnant, très peu de signatures d'architectes antiques ayant été retrouvées.

L'extrémité sud de l'entrée du cryptoportique avait été transformée en église byzantine avec un plancher de mosaïques aux motifs géométriques qui a disparu. C'est dans cette partie que Jacques Seigne a reproduit avec les dalles de pierre, le motif original de la mosaïque. C'est de la technique moderne qui s'adapte à l'Histoire.

Cet ajout moderne a pour but de permettre d'utiliser ce cryptoportique pour l'organisation de différentes manifestations, telles que des expositions lors du festival de Jérash ou des concerts. Pour que ce bâtiment soit utilisable, il a fallu l'électrifier. Les câbles électriques ont été installés sous les dalles pour ne pas abîmer le caractère original de la pièce. Toutes les installations électriques sont dissimulées, cachées derrière une frise ou sous une dalle. Pour accéder aux prises électriques, il suffit de déplacer une dalle, le boîtier de commande étant lui dans un placard byzantin. Un système pour l'évacuation de l'eau a lui aussi été prévu.

L'huissier des portes et des fenêtres a été faite sur place. «On a essayé de faire des choses simples avec des artisans locaux. Le coût de l'huissier a été pris en charge par un groupe de touristes français qui nous a laissé un cadeau. Suite à cette initiative est née l'association des amis de Jérash. Sa Majesté la reine Noria a accepté de devenir le président de cette association», explique Jacques Seigne.

En 14 ans, Jacques Seigne a vu Jérash se transformer énormément. Une métamorphose due en grande partie aux ouvriers qui ont travaillé sur ce



La rénovation de la porte sud de Jérash par une équipe de l'Ifapo.

chantier, tailleurs de pierre ou maçons. «Il y en a qui ont travaillé avec moi pendant 10 ans. On peut en faire des grands maîtres de chantier. Mais tous touchent très peu. Et, quand ils le peuvent, ils nous quittent pour devenir des militaires».

C'est dommage! Né dans le Sud-Ouest de la France, dans le Béarn, pays d'Henri IV, Jacques Seigne a étudié l'architecture et vient de passer son doctorat en histoire. Il s'est spécialisé en architecture hellénistique et romaine.

Il a passé la plupart de sa carrière au Moyen-Orient. Il a travaillé à Larsa en Irak, à Tel Arka, près de Tripoli au Liban, à Shabwa au Yémen, et à Pal-

myre en Syrie. Il est expert auprès de la direction des antiquités syriennes et a fait partie de la commission de l'Unesco chargée d'expertiser les travaux de la mosquée des Omeyyades de Damas.

C'est à Jérash qu'il a rencontré Anne Michèle-Rasson qui est devenue son épouse. Ils ont eu deux jumeaux en 1991. Ils ont travaillé ensemble pendant cinq ans sur le site de Jérash. Tous deux aiment ce site. «Nous sommes redevables à la Jordanie de nous avoir accueilli et de nous avoir laissé travailler sur un site si merveilleux».

«C'est avec un très profond regret que je pars» déclarait

Jacques Seigne peu avant son départ.

«Je voudrais dire aux visiteurs, et surtout aux enfants, qu'il faut respecter ses ancêtres, et ce qu'ils ont fait. Je comprend leur envie de jouer ou football ou de jouer de la musique. Mais il faut regarder autour de soi! Il ne faut pas faire de dégâts en s'amusant par exemple à déplacer des pierres anciennes pour monter sur force. Il faut prendre conscience de l'importance de l'archéologie. Et même si le site est romain, byzantin, ou grec, il leur appartient. Il fait partie de leur vie».

Nelly Lama

Activities

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French Cultural Centre	637009		
Goethe Institute	641993		
Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610658		
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777		
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German	689351
Greek	671331/2
Hungarian	815614
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Iran	673486/7
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Lebanese	637967/625186
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Norwegian Embassy	677517
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People's Rep. of China	682666
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Russian	683905/704960
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Sakhr Software builds an Internet for Arabs

MAKING THE Internet Arabic-friendly is understood to be a technically difficult process. This is due to inherent differences in the standards that handle the Arabic language and the lack of initiative on the part of most companies involved in Arabic development to head for the Internet, as a target environment that requires Arabization efforts.

Here it is important to note that what is meant by Arabic on the Internet is Arabic text and published material that allows searching, storage and processing; just like any other text on the Internet. This would open the door for massive opportunities for Arab users on the Internet. Arabs abroad and Arabic-speaking individuals will be able to interact with content produced in the Arab World in Arabic.

For this bright picture to come into existence, there is a need for the tools to browse Arabic text and manipulate it on the Internet, and the need for Arabic content to be put on the Internet in the first place.

Sakhr Software, as a prominent pioneer in the field of Arabic software, picked up this issue and decided to invest in a solution, on the long-term. The idea is to build an Internet for Arabs, by utilizing Sakhr's strength on both ends of the equation. First, Sakhr's experience and know-how in the areas of linguistics generally, and Arabization in particular, were put to work. On the other hand, the company's software publishing clout was also utilized to produce Internet-enabled Arabic software that facilitates Arabic publishing and manipulation of Arabic text on the Internet.

Sakhr unveiled these solutions at GITEX '96, showcasing its commitment to set a workable standard for Arabic Internet, that should substantially touch on the lives of Arab Internet users everywhere. A host of products and technologies will be on show.

First, there is the 'Sakhr Arabic Browser', which offers extreme practicality in the fact that it is a software addition that can be mounted onto any popular Internet browser, allowing it to browse Arabic text.

'Sakhr Arabic Browser' can handle different standards of HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language), and is available in two versions. One is for Microsoft Arabic Windows 95, while the other is for any version of Windows 3.x, in any language whatsoever.

Second, Sakhr is working towards incorporating advanced electronic publishing technologies for Arabic publishing on the 'net'.

Arabic searching on the Internet is another feature which Sakhr Software did not forget, built on the company's experience in linguistics and morphological analysis. These technologies have enabled Sakhr to produce pioneering products. Now, they will be used once again, but for Internet searching purposes. The idea is to provide a search engine that can search Arabic text and files, offering scientists and researchers massive assistance in tapping into the world-wide resources available on the Internet.

This is a very important feature because many Arab users across the world are using foreign versions of Windows, which are neither English or Arabic.

Users can send and receive email in Arabic, use Netscape to chat in Arabic and read newsgroups.

It's simply a revolution. Technologies for publishing Arabic material on the Internet represent another angle of Sakhr's involvement in promoting the Arabic Internet. Sakhr's well-known Arabic word-processing application 'Al-Ustaz' is able to transfer its documents into HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language). Also, Sakhr is working towards incorporating advanced electronic publishing technologies for Arabic publishing on the 'net'.

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As for content, which is a necessary part of the picture, for the products mentioned above to serve a purpose to begin with, Sakhr is conducting a very impressive effort to put the many treasures of Arab and Islamic information that it has compiled over the years, onto the Internet. Users can browse the Internet for the Holy Qur'an and the Prophet's Tradition. These and more Islamic sources can be seen in sound and images on the Internet.

It's interesting to note that a simple Netscape Plug-in produced by Sakhr will enable thousands of users around the world to browse Arabic content. Internet for Arabs and Arabic-language users is definitely on the way, with Sakhr Software as the driving force behind it. The challenge is to expand the Arabic content on the Internet and to even further spread the Internet itself all over the Arab World.

The EITC '96 presents future technology trends: 'Beam' your data by Infra-Red

By Zeid Nasser
Star Staff Writer

BRUSSELS—Hewlett Packard introduced its vision for an "Infra-Red" future at the European Information Technology Conference (EITC) '96. It highlighted the many developments in the field over the course of the past two years, since the company took the initiative to put forward a standard for Infra-Red communications.

The inclusion of Infra-Red data transfer facilities in computer hardware will mean that you can actually "beam" a file from your PC to your printer, instead of normally sending it via printer cable. It is actually faster, in rate transfer terms, and more convenient because you don't need to be hooked up to the printer by cables.

"The whole point is to eliminate the cables," said David Dack of Hewlett-Packard UK. "Personally, I hate cables and I know that most users suffer from carrying so many cables

around especially with notebook machines that include modems," he added in a session at the EITC '96.

"It is also very important to note how the integration of different technology devices that utilize Infra-Red technology can make our lives easier."

Mr Dack demonstrated how, upon receiving a message on his cellular phone, he hooked it up to a pocket-size PC fitted with Infra-Red transmission capabilities. Then he pointed it at a recent Hewlett-Packard printer model and viola! The message was printed out.

Printers, phones, mobiles, and more devices that include Infra-Red features are beginning to emerge. These are being introduced by the lens of leading companies which are committed to the Infra-Red industry standard put forward three years ago.

Current users of computer hardware will not be left behind in the Infra-Red revolution, as there are already several companies that provide plug-in devices that make your

peripherals Infra-Red enabled. For example, to use Infra-Red technology with your printer, you have to plug a special device into your PC's printer port. That will allow you to print via Infra-Red transmission.

Apart from the ease-of-use and convenience that Infra-Red technology offers computer users, it has so much to offer the telecommunications industry. It is also much cheaper than radio waves which are commonly used. A good example of this would be the paging systems. As need grows, larger systems are required and Radio Wave-based systems will increase in cost. In comparison, Infra-Red-based systems cost less and perform better. It is expected to see many more "Infra-Red" applications to come.

In the meantime, it's good to know that there will be more beaming and less cabling in the future. That should be a good thought to ponder on every time you look at the mess of cables behind your PC.

Jordanian software wins awards at GITEX '96

A GROUP of Jordanian software development companies participated in GITEX '96, the largest computer and information technology show in the region, held in Dubai from 3 to 7 November, 1996.

These companies stood out and provided an impressive showing, with two of them winning official awards at GITEX '96. The Jordanian companies which participated were IdealSoft, Comsoft, SEDCO, Zeine Technological Applications, Turath Center for Computer Research, Arabic Textware and MicroSoftware House.

Zeine Technological Applications won an award for Best Arabic Macintosh Application for the year 1996 while Arabic Textware won an award for Best Technological Innovation

for the year 1996.

The Software Exporters Association is a group that was formed shortly before GITEX '96 was held, with the aim of concentrating the efforts of various locally-based developers targeting international markets. Also, the group will lobby for more governmental support.

The required infrastructure for the rise of a stronger software development industry in Jordan already exists. The skills are available and the marketing know-how is growing. The Jordan Software Developers Association is seeking support from the Jordanian government to strengthen its potential as a leading export industry for the country. For more information on the Jordan Software Exporters Association, contact the Jordan Computer Society (JCS) at 683549.



Jordan 1996

BYTE Middle East

They're talking a good game but aren't solving problems

By Julie Cart
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

TENNIS HAS grown some. Tennis officials used to claim theirs was a problem-free sport. Now, they recognize that aspects of the professional game need rethinking.

Admitting to problems is only the first step, though. Formulating a plan and acting to solve them are the next. But now, tennis is so bogged down in talking and arguing about its problems that, it seems, they will never get solved.

Last week's Chase Championships in New York underscored the point. The women's season-ending event had all the appeal of a MASH unit. The tour's premier player, Steffi Graf, appeared at Madison Square Garden with some reluctance. The week before in Philadelphia she retired against Jana Novotna, citing a back injury. Graf had already admitted she didn't want to play the tournament at all, citing a knee injury.

Monica Seles, for whom there is still fading interest among fans, retired in her opening match, citing a shoulder injury. Conchita Martinez made an indelible impression as she lay prone on the court one night, receiving treatment for a strained hamstring. Her opponent the next night, Iva Majoli, required a seven-minute timeout because of a rib injury.

Besides the on-court attrition, two top players retired—the popular Gabriela Sabatini and the aloof Kimiko Date. There was a suggestion that the retirements of Sabatini and Date—both only 26—were somehow linked to the pressure to play tournaments so they could maintain posi-

tions in the rankings. Everyone seems to acknowledge that things need to change, but seldom is there any movement.

Last week, for instance, the WTA Tour announced its revised rankings system, effective 23 December. The WTA will award points for advancement in tournaments, recognizing the quality of opponents and will drop the system based on the number of tournaments played.

But the new system also rewards those players—such as Arantxa Sanchez Vicario—who play 25 events a year and rack up points while seldom facing elite opponents. Although the plan is to build in an incentive for the top players to play each other more often, players will still find ways to duck each other.

Left unresolved is season length. This year was especially arduous, with Fed Cup for the women and Davis Cup for the men and the Olympics added to the already crowded schedule.

Martinez's dull play in New York seemed to reflect the strain of a long season. "We are one of the few sports that doesn't have an off-season," she said. "With one month off, you really don't have time to practice and get fit for next year, so you carry on your injuries to the next year."

"At the end of the year, everyone is injured. We play a lot of tournaments. It's really a lot, way too much." Seles, indecisive about dealing with an injury, will probably miss the beginning of next season and not defend her only Grand Slam title of this year, the Australian Open.

be shortened—both to protect the players, who, after all, are the product, and to provide logic for fans who find the "tennis season" a nebulous term anyway.

Davis Cup and Fed Cup should be played every other year, to give the players a break and the event more stature. Stop adding mega-events, like the Grand Slam Cup on the men's side, and cluttering the schedule.

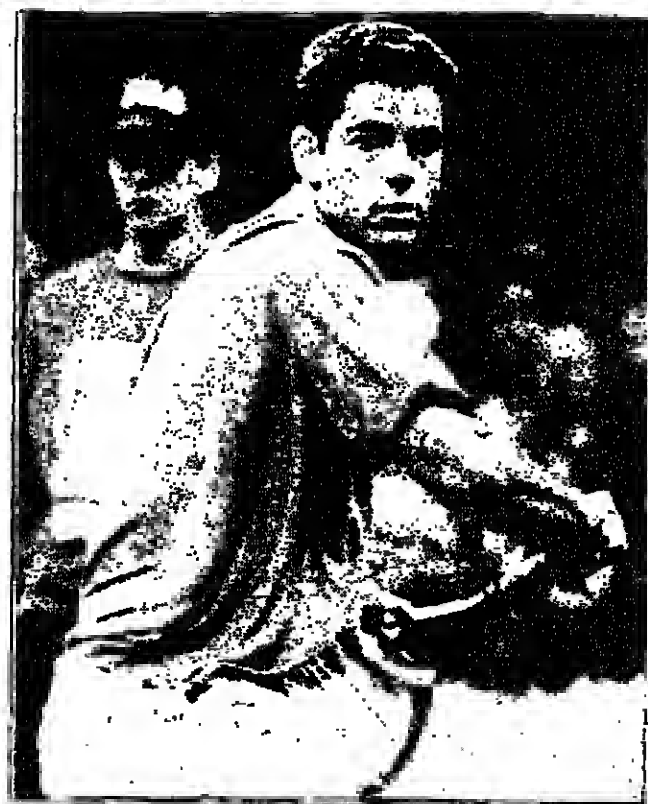
Injuries and burnout are no less a problem on the men's tour, and don't think the men complain about their schedule any less than the women. Of special interest have been the stamina problems experienced by Pete Sampras during long matches.

After he was bothered by them in the US Open, Sampras denied published reports that he suffers from anemia or has any other health problem. But he does have an inherited blood disorder called thalassemia minor that can impair the blood's ability to carry oxygen.

Both Sampras and his sister, Stella, inherited the disorder from their mother, Georgia. Stella Sampras, who is the women's tennis coach at UCLA and a former professional, said thalassemia has never been a problem for her or Pete.

"We've had this all our lives," she said. "I used to take iron pills, but they didn't do anything. I don't take anything for it and, to tell you the truth, I really don't know that much about it. It has never affected me. I don't think it's been a factor for Pete, either. He's had problems this year but I think it's been because of fitness. He's not been able to train as he usually would."

According to Dr. Gary Schiller, assistant professor of medicine at UCLA, thalassemia minor can have little or no impact on the health of a person, whereas thalassemia major is a serious and often



life-threatening disease.

"(Sampras) would show up on a blood test as a little anemic," Schiller said. "He might have an enlarged spleen. But he probably has no problems with it."

Although Sampras also has ongoing stomach problems, the most likely cause of his fatigue was the fatal illness of

his coach, Tim Gullikson. Sampras stopped and started his season, breaking off to be with Gullikson, then missed the start of the clay-court season after his death.

Billie Jean King, who led the US team to the Fed Cup title this year, has told USTA officials that she will take next year off.

International Soccer News

Gratton, former Italy midfielder, dead at 64

□ FLORENCE, Italy—Soccer veteran Guido Gratton, who played for Italy in the 1950s, died in hospital on Tuesday 10 days after he was beaten unconscious in an attack.

The Santa Nuova hospital in Florence said the former midfielder, who was 64, died without regaining consciousness.

He was admitted to the hospital after the attack on 16 November at the tennis club he ran near the Tuscan city. Police say they suspect robbery and are seeking at least two men.

Gratton played for Italy 11 times in the 1950s. His career took him to seven Italian clubs, including Fiorentina where he helped the club win their first championship in 1956 and spent seven years.

He also had a brief career as a trainer before leaving the sport.

Gratton was separated from his partner Annamaria and leaves a daughter, Paola.

Jordan scores 40 as Bulls top Clippers, 88-84

By Chris Baker
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

LOS ANGELES—There was a time, not too long ago, when NBA players regarded a game against the Clippers as a bye.

No longer. Even Michael Jordan respects the Clippers.

Jordan didn't play golf before Monday night's game against the Clippers because he wanted to prepare for the game.

"They seem to play well against us," Jordan said before the game. "We never really come in and dominate them. They get a filled arena and that gives them a little motivation."

"We can't come in here and fall asleep. We're coming off a loss and that's motivation in itself."

The Clippers outplayed the defending NBA champions for three quarters before the Bulls pulled away for an 88-84 victory, before 16,144, the largest crowd to watch a Clipper game at the Sports Arena.

Clipper Coach Bill Fitch was proud of his team.

"I wouldn't trade locker room tonight," Fitch said. "One team is headed for more glory, but this team is going to do something for people to talk about somewhere along the way."

Jordan had 40 points as the Bulls, off to the best start in franchise history, improved to 13-1.

"He's everything they say he is, and the best part of it is that he lives up to it every night," Fitch said of Jordan, who made 14 of 26 shots. "He didn't hurt his movie any, I'll tell you that. I'll go see it now."

Jordan had eight points as the Bulls, who trailed, 66-64,

going into the fourth quarter, used a 17-4 run in the first six minutes of the final period to win their seventh consecutive game against the Clippers.

The Clippers, who built an 11-point second-quarter lead, scored a season-low 33 points in the second half as they lost their third consecutive game

quarter. Clipper centers Kevin Duckworth and Stanley Roberts combined to outscore Bulls centers Wenington, Dickey Simpkins and Jason Caffey, 21-9.

Roberts made four of his first six shots and scored 12 points in 13 minutes in the first half as the Clippers built a 29-18 second-quarter lead and led by 51-45 at the break.

Roberts scored only three points in the second half and finished with a team-high 15 points. The Bulls may be the best team in NBA history, but they didn't look like it against the Clippers.

The Bulls were colder than a winter night on Chicago's Michigan Avenue, missing 12 of their first 13 shots. Guard Malik Sealy, who sprained his left ankle in Saturday's 98-96 loss at Minnesota, did a good job of checking

Jordan, who missed his first five shots before making his final three shots of the first quarter.

"He didn't get any dunks," Sealy said.

Jordan carried the Bulls in the first half, making seven of 13 shots and scoring 22 points.

Jordan said Duckworth and Roberts tired in the final period.

"Duckworth and Stanley were throwing their weight around, but big guys usually get tired and we took advantage of it," Jordan said.

Bull Coach Phil Jackson said his team has turned into the Michael Jordan show. The other Bulls combined for only 48 points.

"We haven't really been complete," Jackson said. "We're riding Michael's coat-tails right now."

Scottie Pippen, who missed 12 of 17 shots, had only five points in the first three quarters before scoring 10 in the final quarter. Toni Kukoc had 13.

